

16 PAGES, PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XIX; 86; THUSDAY JULY 17, 1997; TIR 26, 1376; RABIUL-AWAL 11, 1418

UN Chief Launches "Quiet Revolution"

UNITED NATIONS — UN Chief Kofi Annan on Wednesday emerged bruised but unbowed from turf battles on reform to unveil a package which he described as a "quiet revolution."

Annan announced to the UN General Assembly a long-awaited series of measures, detailed in a 90-page report, which aims to streamline the United Nations and increase the world body's effectiveness.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Congratulations

Tomorrow is the beginning of Unity Week, marking the auspicious birth anniversary of the savior of mankind, the Holy Prophet of Islam (S). We congratulate all Muslims throughout the world on this prodigious occasion.

Editor

Iran Backs Implementation of Tajikistan Peace Accord, Lauds Release of Madani

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports the outcome of the first session of the Tajik national reconciliation commission and implementation of contents of the peace accord, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmood Mohammadi said here Wednesday.

The first session of the Tajik national reconciliation commission was held in Tajikistan. Following the agreements reached last week at the Tajik peace negotiations, a General Amnesty bill for all those involved in the civil war was ratified.

Mohammadi underlined that Islamic Iran, based on its principled policy of preparing the grounds for establishment of peace and tranquility in the region, reiterates support for the results of the first session of the Tajik national reconciliation commission. It is hoped, he added, that the approvals of the commission would be ratified by the Tajik Supreme Parliament in the near future.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with its declared policies and on the basis of the official request made by head of the commission of the Tajik national reconciliation, is to follow closely the exchange of prisoners

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Palestinian Teenager Shot in Head

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A Palestinian teenager who was shot in the head by Zionist soldiers during violent demonstrations died Wednesday from his wounds, hospital sources said.

Doctors at Ramallah Hospital said Ashraf al-Nawadreh, 16, died after two days in a coma from the live bullet which shattered his skull.

Nawadreh was shot during clashes Monday night on the edge of Beit Sahur, a village outside Bethlehem in the West Bank, in which youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who responded with live and rubber-coated bullets.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Leader: Security Should Govern Every Aspect of Public Life

TEHRAN — The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, said here on Wednesday that security should govern every aspect of public life.

In a meeting with commanders of Law Enforcement Forces and officials of the Social Welfare Organization, the Supreme Leader called for strong measures against those violating public security.

The law enforcement forces, however, should strictly observe morals and ethics, and should bear themselves with trust and dignity in discharging their duties, the Ayatollah made it clear.

The Leader said that those elements violating the spirit and letter of the law from inside the police force itself, should be severely dealt with.

Leader urged law enforcement officials to expose any wrongdoing within the force and not to be lenient towards any failure of the personnel in performing their duties.

The Law Enforcement Forces should be changed into a body that the Islamic system requires, noted the Supreme Leader.



The Leader appreciated the police crackdown on those violating social ethics and those threatening public security.

The Law Enforcement Forces should upgrade their work to meet the requirements of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Leader added.

The Supreme Leader called on the Legislative Body (Majlis) and the Judiciary to strongly deal with those who have accumulated unauthorized assets and said, "God willing, we will not allow a new class to take shape such as those who misuse the public funds for their personal purposes.

"Those committed to Islam and the Islamic Revolution will not allow such wrongdoing or the emergence of a new class made wealthy with unauthorized assets of public funds," added the Leader.

The meeting which was also attended by officials of the Social Welfare Organization heard the Leader refer to the international issues, especially his severe criticism of the Zionist regime for the recent insult against Islamic sanctities in Al-Khalil.

The sacrilege has stirred up the hatred of the Islamic *Ummah* throughout the world, said the Ayatollah, noting that "the U.S. did nothing except expressing regret and continued its support of the outlaw and usurper regime which has violated human values ignoring the reaction of the international community."

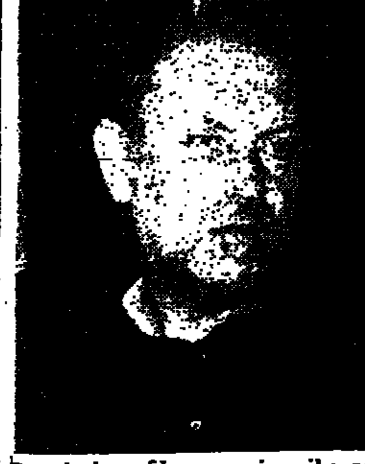
Before the Leader's speech,

(Contd on Pg. 14)

HAMID ALGAR:
Impact of Islamic Revolution on the Oppressed Great

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — "Despite the fact that certain Arab countries have conducted a widespread propaganda to portray the Islamic



Revolution of Iran as primarily, or even exclusively, a Shia phenomenon which somehow represents a danger to Sunni Muslims, the Islamic Revolution has had a great impact on the oppressed people of the world—Muslims and non-Muslims alike," Hamid Algar, a professor at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, California told the *Tehran Times*.

Outlining the characteristics of the Islamic Revolution of Iran which distinguishes it from other revolutions in the world, Algar said, "First of all I should say that if, by revolution, one means a movement that has the support and active participation of the overwhelming mass of the population and which results in the total transformation of its political, economic and social structure, then the Islamic Revolution of Iran stands in a class of its own".

Algar further said that a comparison of the Islamic Revolution, for example, with the Bulshevik Revolution or even the Chinese Revolution will reveal that both earlier revolutions started out as the work of the relatively low-income classes of their representative societies and was of the nature of a civil war.

"Whereas", he went on to say, "in Iran, clearly, despite attempts by outside powers to destabilize the Islamic Republic, civil war did not happen quite simply because of the solid support given to the Islamic Republic by the overwhelming masses".

Secondly, the University of California professor said, "We see by comparison with other upheavals of the 20th century, (that) the Revolution in Iran has resulted in fundamental and irreversible transformation of Iranian society, not only in political terms but in cultural terms also well, as though it has undergone a cultural reorientation".

(Contd on Pg. 14)

UN General Assembly Calls For Cessation of Settlements

UNITED NATIONS — The UN General Assembly on Tuesday overwhelmingly adopted a tough resolution aimed at forcing Israel to stop illegal settlement building in occupied territories.

But the assembly, meeting in emergency special session, held back from ordering economic sanctions against the Zionist state after European Union states warned that such a decision could trigger negative votes from the EU.

In the General Assembly vote, a total 131 states were in favor, three against and 14 abstained.

The United States, Israel and Micronesia were opposed — the same three states which voted against a resolution on April 25 adopted in the emergency special session which resumed on Tuesday to consider the punitive measures.

The General Assembly resolution "recommends to member states that they actively discourage activities which directly contribute to any construction or development of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem (Bait-ul-Moqaddas)."

It also "demands that Israel, the occupying power, immediately cease and reverse all actions taken illegally under international law against Palestinian Jerusalemites."

Palestine's observer to the United Nations, Nasser al-Kidwa, thanked delegations for adopting "a positive position."

"It is our hope that the party concerned will respond to the will of the international community," he said.

Israel's decision in March to proceed with construction of a Jewish neighborhood in Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas, provoked international condemnation, plunged the peace process into a deep freeze and triggered months of unrest.

Western diplomats said that 14 of the 15 EU countries voted for the resolution, as did other leading industrialized states such as Canada and Japan, on the understanding that it did not mean the imposition of sanctions.

But the phrasing was sufficiently ambiguous to stir a high number of abstentions among Western powers, including Germany which — for the second time in similar circumstances — broke with its EU partners.

In a blow to the Palestinians, Russia, the co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, abstained.

Russian deputy permanent representative Alexander Gorelik told delegates that his country

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Damascus Calls For UN Sanctions Against Israel

DAMASCUS — Syria welcomed Wednesday a new UN General Assembly resolution condemning Israeli settlement activity and said it hoped it was just the beginning of UN action against the Zionist state.

The newspaper of the Syrian ruling party *Al-Baath* said that while the resolution passed Tuesday did not impose sanctions, it "demanded by an overwhelming majority a halt to settlement activity on occupied Palestinian territory."

"There is an international will to adopt practical measures. Yesterday's resolution is expected to be the first step toward adopting sanctions against Israel," *Al-Baath* newspaper said.

The Arab bloc at the United Nations called on the General Assembly to vote for economic sanctions against the Zionist state, but the resolution was watered down.

The resolution "recommends to member states that they actively discourage activities which directly contribute to any construction or development of Israeli settlements in the occupied

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Cambodian Royalists Name New PM

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's Royalist Funcinpec Party named a new premier Wednesday to succeed deposed first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, as Parliament prepared to meet for the first time in seven months.

There were early signs the nomination of Foreign Minister Ung Huot as the new first premier could ease the crisis gripping the country since co-Premier Hun Sen deposed the prince in two days of street battles early this month.

Ung Huot accepted the job provided he could stay on as foreign minister and said Hun Sen had approved his nomination.

"I put the interest of my country above everything else, above parties, above my boss Prince Ranariddh, who I respect," Ung Huot said.

Hun Sen has insisted he has not led a coup d'etat but merely wanted to get rid of Prince Ranariddh, who he said betrayed the country by negotiating with Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Officials later announced the 120-member National Assembly would meet for the first time since December in 12 days' time.

"We set July 28 as (the date) for the National Assembly session," said Toan Chhay, the leader of a renegade Funicinpec

(Contd on Pg. 14)

TEHRAN TIMES

TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Distribution & Subscription Department, Tel: 8808895
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437 8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR 224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
ISSN 1017-9410
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa] Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Kayhan

In the Name of God

They shall have good news in this world's life and in the hereafter; there is no changing the words of Allah; that is the mighty achievement.

(HOLY QORAN) (10:64)

OPINION

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

"And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited..." (3: 102)

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

The above-quoted verse of the Holy Qoran explicitly calls on Muslims to get united in order to safeguard Islam and the interests of all Muslims.

Indeed, belief in one God, one Book and one Prophet (S) is the ground on which all Muslims can forge a dynamic unity. But the sad fact is, disunity characterizes the situation of Muslims more than unity. What is the reason?

First of all, we need to be reminded that the seeds of discord among Muslims were sown by the colonialists who succeeded in exploiting the material resources of the Islamic world in past centuries and whose steps are now being trailed by neocolonialists in the guise of philanthropy or humanism.

Secondly, some Muslim leaders, knowingly or unknowingly, have played into the hands of colonial powers by fanning the flames of sectarian differences and widening the gap that divides the Islamic world.

Today marks the commencement of "Unity Week," a week marked annually to remind Muslims that a dynamic, meaningful unity is a must if their faith is to survive.

Unfortunately, Muslim countries today—Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, Afghanistan, Turkey, Algeria and others—are the main targets of Western cultural invasion, political intrigues or military pressure.

The enemies of Islam have pitted Muslim against Muslim and, in the process, some have obviously been misled. Divisions have not only rendered the entire Islamic world weakened in the defense of its own interests, discord among its own followers has lessened its credibility as well.

Why should a tiny country like Israel be able to defy international rules and regulations with utmost impunity? Why should the Muslims, possessed of strategically located lands overflowing with natural resources, be impotent to force Israel to evacuate the occupied territories? The answer is clear: disunity prevents them.

Unity Week is an appropriate occasion for Muslims everywhere to sort out differences and consolidate their ranks. Of course, all Islamic schools of thought are respected, for they rely on the Holy Qoran and the sayings of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S). It is irrational, impossible, and unwise to call for the merger of existing Islamic schools of thought. But it is quite advisable and necessary to invite all Muslims to close ranks and form a formidable united ummah.

Iran Condemns Zionists' Atrocities in Bait-ul-Moqaddas

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, said that continuation of hegemonic policies of the Zionist regime in occupied Palestinian lands, especially Beit-ul-Moqaddas, is against the wishes of the international community. He called on the UN General Assembly to denounce such acts.

According to IRNA, Iran's envoy made the remark at the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York on Tuesday.

Kharrazi expressed deep concern that even though three months have passed since the adoption of the resolution condemning the construction of new Israeli settlements, no progress has been made on the observance of the resolution by the Zionist regime.

The General Assembly passed a resolution on April 25 condemning the construction of 6,500 new Israeli settlements in the Jabal abu Ghneim in east Bait-ul-Moqaddas and called for a halt to such constructions.

Kharrazi noted that in fact the resolution passed by a majority illustrates the outrage and grave concern of the world community on the continued expansionist policies. It also reflected the opposition of overwhelming majority of the member states against the veto privilege which has been illogically and inappropriately exercised by a permanent member of the Security Council.



Before the adoption of the resolution, the U.S. used its right of veto twice to cripple all efforts by the Security Council to condemn Israeli policies.

Iran's permanent representative emphasized that so long as this unjust situation persists, the Security Council would, as a matter of fact, continue to remain paralyzed to oblige the Israeli regime to end its illegal actions and policies.

Referring to the fact that in recent months the world has witnessed the intransigence of Israel

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Strict Security Measures Adopted in Southern, Western Borders

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Acting Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces in southern and western regions, Brigadier General Darjazi, announced here Tuesday night that units of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces actively control any unauthorized movement in the southern and western borders of the country, IRNA reported.

Pointing to the continuous presence of operational units in the country's southern regions and the Army's defensive maneuvers, Darjazi said that since the acceptance of the UN Resolution 598 by Iran, 480,000 anti-personnel, 175,000 anti-vehicle, 291,000 anti-tank mines, as well as 377,000 unexploded shells have been collected and detonated.

He further added that till now, bodies of 434 Iraqi soldiers, recovered in search operations, have been delivered to the Iraqi officials.

Iranian Ambassador Confers With Chadian Officials

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Ambassador to Chad Nasrollah Mirzaei Nasir met with several Chadian officials in N'djamena on Wednesday on the threshold of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Chad.

Mirzaei Nasir, in his meeting with Chadian Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh, outlined the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various sectors and said the Islamic Republic attached high importance to ties with Muslim and African countries.

Saleh for his part announced his country's readiness to expand its relations with Iran.

In a separate meeting earlier in the day, the Iranian diplomat and Chadian Minister of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Salibu Garba, discussed cooperation in the area of media and culture.

Mirzaei Nasir also had a meeting on Wednesday with Chadian Agriculture and the Environment Minister Ali Mohammad Zein Ali, who welcomed expansion of Tehran-N'djamena relations, particularly in the area of agriculture.

The Chadian official also called for expansion of mutual cooperation in the area of manpower training, afforestation projects and collection of surface waters.

Boroujerdi Calls On Afghan Leaders to Accept Peace proposals

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi on Tuesday called on Afghan leaders to accept any proposal on settlement of crisis in Afghanistan.

Boroujerdi who is currently in Afghanistan to help end clashes in the war-torn country, made the remark in a meeting with the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, General Abdul Malek, IRNA reported.

Stressing cooperation among all Afghan parties and factions to settle the current problems, the deputy minister said Afghanistan belongs to the entire Afghan nation.

Boroujerdi, underscoring active participation of UN and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in settling Afghan crisis, expressed hope that Pakistan would play a positive role in Afghanistan's peace process.



General Malek said the National Islamic Front welcomes any move aimed to restore peace to Afghanistan.

1,220 kg of Opium Seized in Khorasan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces of Khorasan General Bahram Goudarzi said in Mashhad, the provincial capital of Khorasan Province, on Wednesday that a total of 1,220 kg of opium has been so far confiscated in the province.

He told IRNA that the drugs were hauled during two phases of gunfight with the drug traffickers.

"The operation lasted for three days in the border towns of Torbat-e Jam, Sarakhs, Taibad and Salehabad," he added.

He further said that during the operation three of the drug traffickers were killed and 33 of them were arrested.

Kyrgyzstan Calls For Expansion of Academic Ties With Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Kyrgyz Minister of Higher Education, Askar Kakeyev in Bishkek Tuesday called for closer relations between Iranian and Kyrgyz universities.

According to IRNA, he made the remark in a meeting with the Iranian delegation comprising officials from culture and higher education and health ministries.

The Iranian delegation is currently in Bishkek to review the application of Kyrgyz students who are interested in studying at Iranian universities.

Soleimani, head of the Iranian delegation to Bishkek told IRNA correspondent that the Iranian universities are ready to admit at least 1,000 foreign students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels annually.

Before arriving in Bishkek, the Iranian delegation visited Kazakhstan, where they also reviewed a number of Kazkh students' application for admission into Iranian universities.

Oldest Qanat in Persian Gulf Area Discovered on Kish Island

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Persian Gulf's oldest qanat system (subterranean water canal) was discovered around Harireh City in Kish Island, Head of the Kish Free Trade Zone Services Company, Mostafa Ebrahimi, said in Bandar Abbas on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, Ebrahimi did not mention the length of the qanat, but said that it was found some 13 meters below surface and was fed by 60 wells.

He said the qanat had been dug with basic and simple tools in the past. He also did not say to which era the qanat belonged.

According to Ebrahimi, the Harireh qanat was distinctive from other subterranean canals for its sweet water and the relatively cool weather.

He concluded that Rls.1 billion had been allocated for renovation of the qanat.

The ancient Iranians are credited with the invention of the qanat system, and carried this technology to the lands that came under their sway such as Iraq, Central Asia and even Egypt.

The Mongol invasion of Iran in the 13th century destroyed the qanat system and laid waste the agricultural lands.

Today, despite modern technology, there are still thousands of kilometers of qanats in use in the Iranian plateau.

Promotion of Tehran-Almaty Cultural Ties Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — In a meeting with Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim here Wednesday, the Kazakh Ambassador to Iran, Vyacheslav Guizzatov, called for promotion of the two countries' bilateral cultural ties.

The ambassodor mentioned the holding of culture week, expanding tourism activities, honoring cultural figures and expanding cooperation among the news agencies of the two countries as the important areas of cooperation between the two countries, an IRNA report said.

Mirsalim, for his part, expressed Iran's readiness to promote bilateral cultural ties. He considered the common cultural and historical ties existing between Iran and Kazakhstan as a major factor in expanding cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, arts and tourism.

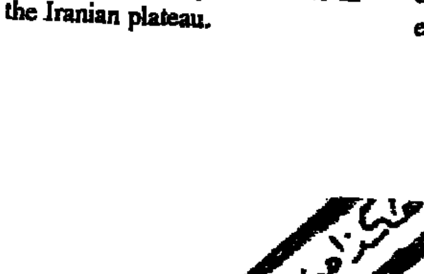
Seminar on Islamic Unity Inaugurated in Zahedan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The 8th gathering on a scientific approach to unity between Shia and Sunni Muslims opened in Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Monday evening on the occasion of the Solidarity Week, marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S), an IRNA report said.

Some 400 Shia and Sunni scholars and ulema are attending the three-day conference, sponsored by the Office of the Leader's representative for the Sunni affairs in the southeastern Province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, Hojjatoleslam Mojtaba Hosseini, the Leader's representative in Sistan-Baluchestan for the Sunni affairs stressed that Iran has been calling for unity among regional countries. He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been advocating unity.





World Events in Iranian Press

NATO, Scene of Europe-U.S. Grappling

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — French President Jacques Chirac has raised the flag of open opposition to U.S. policies in NATO, calling for an end to Washington's absolute hold over NATO's decision-making and command organs.

The issue raised by Paris is in fact the words of other European members of NATO. The latter, however, prefer not to be as assertive as France in this episode, only waiting for the results of this wrestling was to create suitable opportunities for themselves to make more logical decisions.

In its editorial on the current trend of NATO's development, the Persian daily *Jumhoori-e Eslami* writes that all evidence indicates that Chirac's demand is not an ingenuous and volatile propaganda manoeuvre. His drive is in fact constituted on a clear strategy pictured by France for itself, and for its other European allies.

To put it differently, Chirac's move will persist as Europe's conclusive long-term policy. This logical demand is unlikely to go unheeded unsympathetically by other European countries given the political and propaganda atmosphere prevailing in today's Europe.

The commentator writes that at the present juncture, the American military presence has brought golden opportunities for the U.S. to influence European concerns in addition to its long-term objectives. The U.S. has imposed a colossal budget on NATO, taken from the pocket of European countries.

By its efforts on three axes, Washington in fact attempts to make European countries slide the major issue into oblivion: that is, the necessity for putting an end to NATO.

The three issues are as follows:

1. Inclusion of east European countries in NATO.

2. The restructuring of NATO and the introduction of changes in NATO's influence and activities.

3. Changing NATO's goals and missions.

In an analysis entitled, "NATO's Internal Threats," The Persian daily *Abrar* writes that the system which NATO is planning to implement today is to determine the new priorities of the organization. This determination is in accordance with a pre-planned program and remote from economic restrictions of member countries. According to this program, the infrastructure of NATO has been organized in such a manner that calls for the economic participation of all member countries.

Abrar's analyst further writes that what threatens the Western union does not come from the unanticipated attacks of the former eastern bloc. Today, NATO is threatened inwardly. These threats come from NATO's economic, social and political complications, as well as border rivalries and differences. These factors trigger instability in NATO's new members, while they seek stability and security.

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 39°C
Min. temp. 27°C

Partly cloudy with wind and scattered showers

Warmest Point:
Iranshahr 46°C

Coldest Point:
Takab 8°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Istanbul	—	Moscow	—
Rome	—	Madrid	23
Athens	—	Abu Dhabi	35
London	19	Karachi	—
Paris	24	New Delhi	29
Frankfurt	—	Kuwait	42

Iran's Minister of Health left for S.Lanka

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Minister of Health Ali Reza Marandi left for Sri Lanka on Wednesday, it was announced here on Tuesday.

The minister said that during the trip he is to visit Sri Lankan health and treatment centers as well as study grounds for cooperation in the area of health and medical treatment.

Iran's progress in health and medical treatment has been acknowledged by world health authorities and many of them have called for Iran's cooperation in rendering services to developing countries, the minister added.

Iran, Pakistan Sit to Strengthen Combat Against Drug Trafficking

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran, Pakistan Interstate Technical Committee began work to study ways for strengthening the efficiency of law enforcement forces on common borders.

The two-day meeting, attended by concerned authorities of the two countries and the UN representative underscored the need for the two countries to eradicate drug traffickers.

During the meeting, the two countries will hold talks on the quality of training of regional forces engaged in combating drug trafficking at Tehran.

Asian Currencies "Not in Critical Condition"

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka said Wednesday Asian currencies were not in a critical condition despite the troubles sweeping the region following the Thai baht's July 2 float.

"Asian currencies overall are not in a critical condition," Mitsuzuka told a regular news conference, adding that he expected trading in several of the currencies "to settle down soon", AFP reported.

The ministry was finalizing the schedule of a meeting between Mitsuzuka and Thai Finance Minister Thanong Bidaya around Friday, he said.

Int'l. Union of Muslim Women NGOS Condemn Zionists' Insult to Prophet

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The International Union of Muslim Women Non-Governmental Organizations announced on Monday that Zionists, who spared no crime for realization of their desires, had by insulting Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and Holy Mary (SA) sacrileged sanctities and ideological beliefs of world Muslims and Christians.

The union said in a statement issued on Monday that Zionists' measures in insulting Muslims and Christians was not a crime that could go unheeded by the world people, even by the true followers of Moses who have not yet been snared into Zionists' trap.

The union called on the world Catholic leader Pope John Paul II and other Christian churches to be in chorus with Muslim political and religious figures in defending Qods, divine messangers and Holy Mary (SA).

It said that all the enemies of mankind should know that Zionists' assault on sanctities of people would not go unheeded.

Kazakhstan Invites Iranian Astronomers to Inspect Almaty Observatory

ALMATY — Head of the Almaty observatory, Kinis Kurapov, called on Iranian astronomy researchers here on Monday to inspect the Kazakh observatory and the research projects underway at the centre.

Kurapov, who made the remark in a meeting with an Iranian parliamentary delegation, said that astronomy is greatly indebted to such great Iranian scientists as Khajeh Nasireddin Tousi, who lived in the 13th century.

The Iranian delegation, led by head of the industries and mining commission of the Majlis, welcomed close cooperation between Iranian and Kazakh astronomy centres.

The Iranians also inspected sugar and dairy factories in Almaty on Monday.

(IRNA)

IPO Chief Calls On Afghan Waring Factions to Declare Cease-Fire in Respect for Unity Week



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Chief of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Hojjatoleslam Mohammadi Araqi called on all Afghan Muslims to stop shedding each other's blood in respect for the Week of Unity.

Talking to reporters yesterday, the IPO chief said the Zionists' insult to Islamic sanctities backfires and cause Muslims to hold more glorious ceremonies on non-Islamic countries will also hold ceremonies on the occasion.

Araqi said some 70 foreign guests from different countries will attend the unity conference in Tehran and alluded to the goal of the unity conference to be held in the occasion of the Unity Week, thus countering the Zionist plots.

Hojjatoleslam Araqi said incoming reports indicate that Muslims in 40 Islamic countries and Muslim minorities in 30 Sanandaj.

He said the conference will study the factors conducive to unity and causes responsible for difference in the world of Islam.

Other topic of discussion, Araqi said, are Islamic awakening and the role of Islamic Revolution in enlightening Muslims and the intellectual, ideological and Qoranic foundations of unity among Muslims.

Iran, Pakistan Identify New Areas of Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran and Pakistan agreed here Tuesday to speed up and facilitate the construction of an oil refinery and gas delivery system to Pakistan.

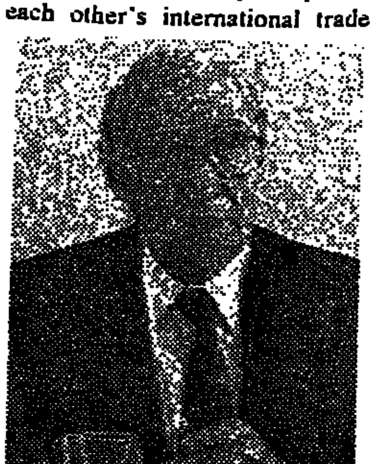
Iranian Minister of Road and Transportaion Akbar Torkan and Pakistan's Minister of Economics


Torkan

and Finance Sartaj Aziz, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Tehran, IRNA said.

Following three days of talks, the two ministers agreed to increase the transit of lorries between the two countries, build the Kerman-Zahedan railway and upgrade the Taftan-Quetta railway, in accordance with proper standards.

In the economic sphere, the two countries agreed to expand their cooperation in oil, engineering and consultancy services. They also called for setting up branches of banks from the two countries in free trade-industrial zones in both countries and obtain required trade privileges in order to participate in each other's international trade


Aziz

fairs.

Other agreements signed between the two countries cover cooperation in pharmaceutical industry, export of Iranian iron ore to Karachi, fish farming, issuance of commercial visas, granting scholarships to 20 Iranian students as well as increased cooperation in water supply and distribution systems.

Parliamentarian Calls On Traders to Intensify Activities Abroad

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Iranian Majlis is in support of economic and commercial activities by Iranians abroad, said member of the presiding body of the Majlis, Hussein Hashemi, Tuesday.

Hashemi called on Iranian traders to invest in other countries besides their engagement in trade and commerce, IRNA said.

The official, who made the remark in a meeting with Iranian traders and entrepreneurs in Almaty on Tuesday, voiced support for establishment of vocational unions of Iranian traders abroad.

Iran Ranks 10th of Oil Exporters to Germany

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran's export of crude oil to Germany between January and April this year reached 329,000 tons from 182,000 tons, making the Islamic Republic stand 10th in the list of 22 countries supplying oil to Germany.

According to IRNA, Germany's oil imports showed 0.7 percent increase within the said period and reached 32.8 million tons from the previous figures of 32.6 million tons.

President Inaugurates Dozens of Projects in Kerman

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A high voltage short wave radio station was put into operation in the city of Sirjan, Kerman Province, yesterday in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The station along with four other radio stations can send programes to all parts of the world, IRNA reported.

The project to put the station into operation had cost Rls.26 billion plus $35 million.

The station includes 10 high voltage short wave radio stations for broadcast of external service programs, 48 fixed and rotating antennas, two frequency ranges for every region, a powerplant, a high voltage power transformer and a transmitter site.

Addressing directors and officials in charge of the project, President Rafsanjani said that gaining access to new data dissemination tools was necessary for a revolution, whose mission is to air the divine message to humanity.

President Rafsanjani said that Islamic Iran had devised suitable strategies for solving important global issues and for countering the plots hatched by colonialism in oppressed countries.

Such strategies, he added, required utilization of new telecommunication technology.

Meanwhile, eleven production units, built at cost of some Rls 62.7 billion, went on stream by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Sirjan Special Economic Zone, southwest of Kerman, Wednesday.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the projects, the president noted that the project to establish Sirjan Special Economic Zone has been successful in improving the country's economy.

The positive achievements of the project will accelerate putting into operation as well as expansion of other special economic zones in different regions including Bam, Bandar Imam and Jolfa, he added.

With a Rls 500 billion capital investment and creation of some 3,000 new jobs, the Sirjan Special Economic Zone will be a successful pattern for other economic zones throughout the country, he added.

Also speaking in the ceremony, minister of industries, Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, outlined industrial situation of this southeastern province.

President Rafsanjani and the accompanying delegation also inspected different parts of Sirjan economic zone. The ministers of agriculture, cooperatives, construction Jihad, housing, industries, labor and mines and metals are accompanying the president.

Rafsanjani arrived in Sirjan, southwest of Kerman, yesterday morning and was greeted at the airport by local officials.

President arrived here from Yazd. While in Yazd President Rafsanjani inaugurated the light rolling plant of the Steel Alloy Complex, the Ardakan Steel Mill, the Qandi Cable Manufacturing Company and nine telecommunications projects went on stream.

The projects were built at a total cost of Rls.399 billion and $558 million.

The project to expand the Cable Manufacturing Company boosted cable production to eight billion meters, doubling the total output.

While providing cable needed for one million telephone lines, the project saves $150 million in hard currency annually.

The initial foreign exchange to be spent on the project was estimated to amount to $50 million. This, however was cut down by $15 million due to manufacture of the needed machineries in Iran.

The plant is built on 27,745 sq. meter plot of land at a cost of Rls.20 billion and $35 million. It creates jobs opportunity for 300 persons.

The plant is one of the larges telecommunications cable producing units in the world and the largest in Asia.

A plant producing cathode copper through leaching method was put into operation at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex here on Wednesday by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Executive operations for construction of a coal tar producing plant and of a petrochemical complex were launched in Zarand and Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex respectively simultaneous with the operation of the project on Wednesday.

Head of Iran's National Copper Industries Company, Mostafa Mo'azenzadeh, said the plant cost Rls.140 billion and two years to complete.

Industrial Sector Creates 250,000 Jobs

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Industrial investments have lead to the creation of 250,000 employment opportunities in the past eight years, printed *Iran* , a Farsi-language daily, quoting the Iranian Minister of Industries, Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, here yesterday.

Pointing to the growth of industrial investments in the country from 10 percent of total investments at the start of the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan to 15 percent in the Iranian year 1975 (March 21, 1996-March 20, 1997), Nematzadeh cited the increase in the volume of industrial production as well as a notable improvement in the quality as factors for boosting the industries' share of the gross domestic product (GDP) from 10 to 17 percent in the past eight years.

Bushehr Industrial Exports Jump Two-Fold

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The value of exports during the first quarter of the Iranian current calender year (March 21- June 22) has more than doubled compared to the corresponding period last year.

Javad Namavar Jahromi, the official in charge of Bushehr Province's industries, said yesterday that the exports fetched $868,365 and included handicrafts, shrimp, fish, facial tissues and sanitary items.

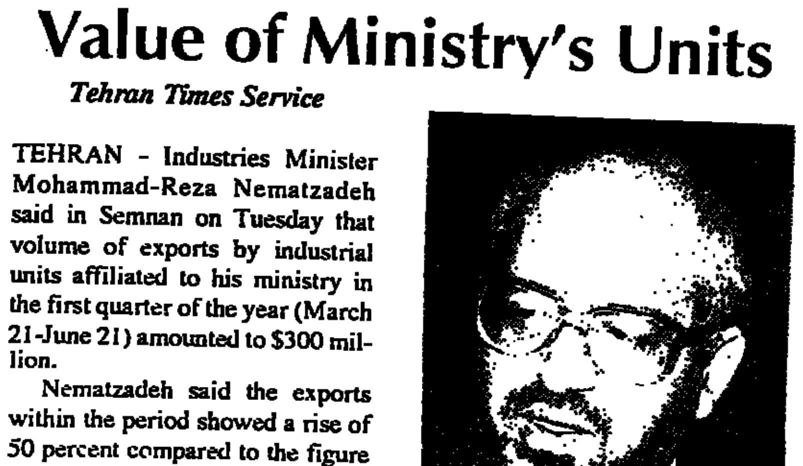
$300m, 3-Month Export Value of Ministry's Units

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Industries Minister Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh said in Semnan on Tuesday that volume of exports by industrial units affiliated to his ministry in the first quarter of the year (March 21-June 21) amounted to $300 million.

Nematzadeh said the exports within the period showed a rise of 50 percent compared to the figure over the preceding year.

According to IRNA he expressed hope that volume of the units' exports would exceed $1.7


Nematzadeh

billion by the year end on March 20, 1998.

He added that more than 1,500 new industrial production units would be operational by March 20, 1998.

Nematzadeh inaugurated six industrial and production projects the Semnan provincial cities of Garmsar, Sorkheh and Semnan on Tuesday.

Tuesday Deals at TSE

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A total of 1,286,087 shares, worth over Rls. 5.27 billion, were traded in 664 turns, for 210 applicants at the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) on Tuesday.

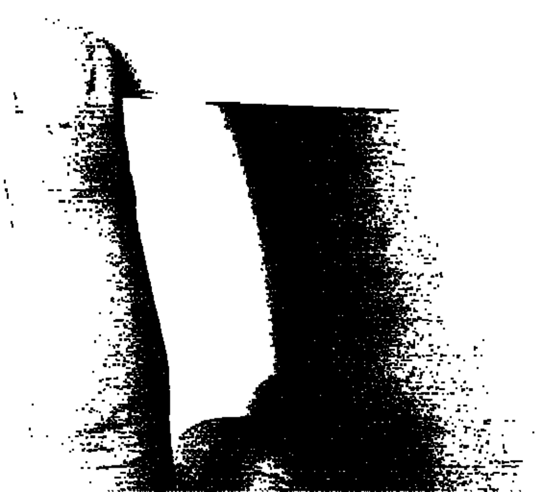
In Tuesday's deal the shares of 10 companies made gains, while those of 12 others declined.

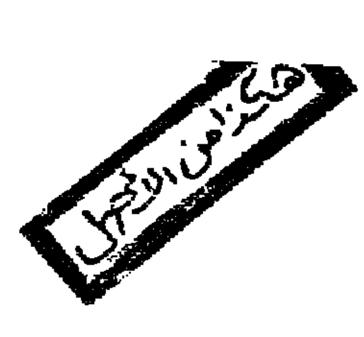
The general price index on Tuesday stood at 1845.29 points, down 0.98 points compared to the figure on Monday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday, July 15, 1997.

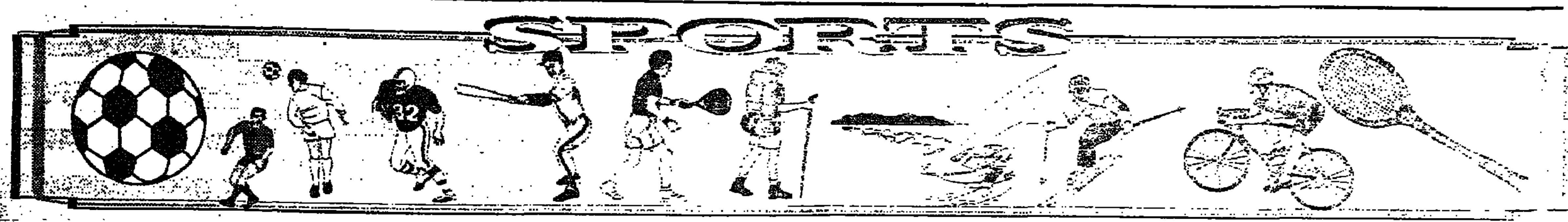
COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,289	1,297	2,214	2,225
Austria	schilling	139	140	238	239
Belgium	(100) francs	4,723	4,750	8,104	8,149
Canada	dollar	1,277	1,284	2,192	2,203
Denmark	krone	255	257	439	441
France	franc	292	294	501	504
Germany	mark	975	981	1,674	1,682
Holland	guilder	866	871	1,487	1,495
Italy	(100) liras	100	101	172	173
Japan	(100) yen	1,536	1,545	2,637	2,651
Sweden	krone	225	227	387	389
UAE	dirham	476	469	818	820
UK	pound	2,944	2,965	5,061	5,087
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015





هكذا من الأصل

nt Inaugurates
Projects in Ker



SPORTS SUMMARY

ATHLETICS

Johnson Joyful at Athens Invitation

WACO, Texas: Michael Johnson is going to the world athletics championships next month and he could not be happier, even though it took an unprecedented special invitation to all reigning champions.

"I'm very pleased, of course," Johnson said. "I was hoping this would happen."

South African Champ Admits Smoking Marijuana

JOHANNESBURG: Olympic 800m silver medallist Hezekiel Sepeng has admitted smoking marijuana before he became one of the hottest properties in South African athletics.

Sepeng, according to the SAPA news agency, said he had "smoked ganja" when he was young, but decided to give up the habit and pursue his athletics career.

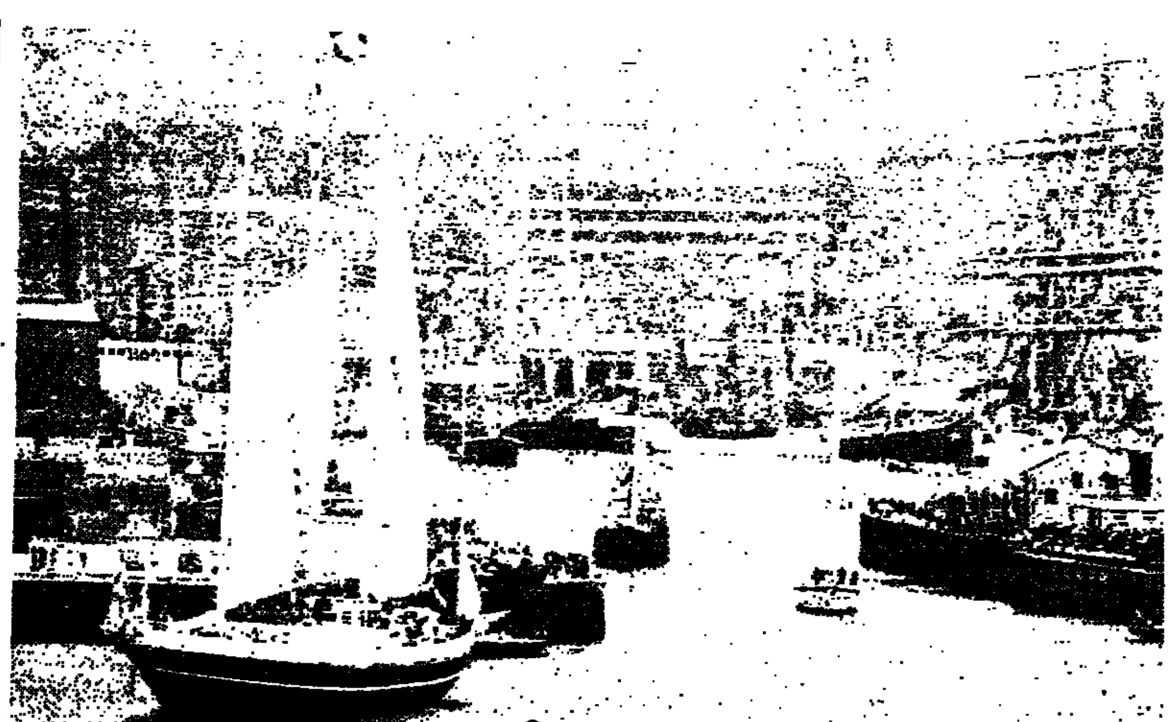
CRICKET

Bangladesh No Lambs

COLOMBO: Pakistan captain Rameez Raja warned his players not to take victory for granted when they clash with unfancied Bangladesh in the Asia Cup on Wednesday.

Bangladesh, the only non-test playing nation in the limited-overs tournament also featuring world champions Sri Lanka and India, are not expected to stretch their opponents.

(AFP)



ABERDEEN, England (July 15): The Dutch "Eendracht" (L) starts raising her sail as she reaches the outer basin of Aberdeen Harbour followed by the Irish vessel "Asgard 11" at the start of the 1997 Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race.

(AFP PHOTO)

Kuwait Beat Libya



BEIRUT, Lebanon (July 15): Kuwaiti volleyball players soar above the net to smash the ball, in Ghazir, during their Pan-Arab games' match against Libya.

(AFP PHOTO)

BEIRUT — In volleyball, Kuwait beat Libya 3-0, in the Pan-Arab Games here on Tuesday. Algeria and Egypt beat Qatar and Bahrain respectively both by 3-0 scorelines in Group A, and Saudi Arabia beat Lebanon 3-2 in Group B.

In women's javelin, hosts Lebanon received their first gold medal.

Saoud al-Hareth threw 40.22m to win, though it was 13.02m worse than the games record set by Syria world and Olympic Heptathlon champion Ghada Chouaa.

Egypt continued their success with the start of the weightlifting competition. They won five weightlifting golds and took another in the hammer by Charif Hennaoui to take first place in the medals table with nine golds.

Ali Hamid (54kg), third in the Mediterranean games last month in Bari, won 3 of them and broke his own Arab clean and jerk record by 1 kg after lifting 136kg.

And Mohammed Osman (59kg), silver medallist at Bari, won two golds plus a silver in the snatch.

Algeria, second in the table with eight golds, took two on Tuesday in the women's high jump through Hamida Ben Hassan and women's foil fencing with Wassila Radouane.

(AFP)

Agassi Gets Chance for Revenge

Compiled From Dispatches

WASHINGTON: Andre Agassi's first foe after a 2 1/2 month layoff will be the man who inflicted his most humiliating grand slam defeat.



Agassi returns here Wednesday night at the $675,000 ATP Washington Classic in a second-round match against fellow American Doug Flach. Agassi had been in a slump before sitting out since May 1 with a wrist injury.

In another development, it was reported from Stuttgart, Germany the Boris Becker, the 1996 runner-up, trails well out of the chase at the halfway point of the race to November's ATP tour world championships.

The elite eight-man event, to be played in Hannover, northern Germany, Nov. 11-16, could easily feature a radically different lineup from the 1996 edition based on player results so far this year.

One constant, though, will be world No. 1 Pete Sampras. This year's Wimbledon and Australian Open champion holds a runaway lead in the chase, with 2,698 computer points earned during 1997.

The event brings together the top eight players in the world based on ranking points collected since January.

Spain's Sergi Bruguera stands a distant second at the halfway point, with 1,975 points.

The event could easily be missing its drawcard — Becker, who has earned a mere 562 points after playing just eight events prior to this week's Mercedes Cup.

American world No. 2 Michael Chang stands third in the race to Hannover (1,895 points), ahead of Thomas Muster, and Marcelo Rios of Chile.

Hovering on ninth and tenth are Goran Ivanisevic and Patrick Rafter, who reached the fourth round of Wimbledon and the French open semi-finals. He is the only Australian currently in the ranks of possible contenders.

PROVISIONAL RANKINGS

1. Pete Sampras (USA) 2,698 Points
2. Sergi Bruguera (SPA) 1,975
3. Michael Chang (USA) 1,895
4. Thomas Muster (AUT) 1,757
5. Marcelo Rios (CHI) 1,695
6. Carlos Moya (SPA) 1,629
7. Alex Coretja (SPA) 1,627
8. Gustavo Kuerten (BRA) 1,623

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

Skills of Kung Fu

By Master Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Controlling Breath and Mind

(Part 48)

Man will have massive decision making power and quick and precise judgement. Many things have been told about mind capabilities but the fact is that mind by itself has very limited comprehensive power.

Science has thought us many things but still fails to explain the world and is unable to describe the nature of existence or show us how to live. Thus, there are questions human brain has no answers to. Even in the West, science is unable to say with certainty whether or not mind and body are a single entity, or if there are differences between them, which one is superior.

Majority of Eastern philosophers believe that body and mind are single entity and must be trained simultaneously. The unity of body and mind is achieved through strengthening and regulating "tendon" and concentrating on tendon. When this unity is achieved, the man will be able to accept the things as they. Consequently, no dualities or contradictions will exist.



Reaching this unity of mind and body is part of Kung Fu's aims. Admiringly, applying man's power and skills not only for one's own interest but also for the benefit of society, is an appropriate way of living. Bravery finds meaning only if accompanied by justice.

In my opinion, any person who wishes to step into the road of martial arts must be experienced.

As dangerous combats are banned by law no explorer of martial arts road can feel the real attractions of the arts unless he has that sort of experience.

Therefore, what I say finds no application among common people and laymen. I am only addressing the explorer of the way.

Ullrich Takes Command of Tour

ARCALIS, Andorra — Jan Ullrich of Germany, already hailed as the next Miguel Indurain, won the 10th stage of the Tour de France here on Tuesday to take the leader's yellow jersey.

The German won the 252km stage, the longest mountain stage of the tour, after a gruelling 7hr 46min in the saddle. Meanwhile, the Tour jury on Wednesday upheld an appeal by Richard Virenque and dismissed the French rider's 20 second penalty for being given a water bottle by his team manager outside the designated feeding zones.

Instead, his Festina manager Bruno Roussel was fined 300 swiss francs ($200).

The decision left Virenque in second place, 2min 38sec behind Ullrich.

In the meantime,Frenchman Laurent Desbiens won the 192km 11th stage of the Tour when Ukrainian Sergey Outschakov was disqualified for dangerous sprinting.

Outschakov was relegated to third behind Italian Carlo Finco — the other rider in the three-man sprint finish.

Jan Ullrich of Germany kept the leader's yellow jersey after finishing down the field.

The riders travel to St. Etienne on Thursday's rest day for a 55km time-trial on Friday.

(AFP)

Lebanon Truce Committee Meets Amid Rocket Attacks

NAQURA, Lebanon — A five-nation committee monitoring a truce in South Lebanon met Wednesday to discuss Israeli and Lebanese complaints of violations after a night of rocket attacks against the Zionst state.

Two Katyusha rockets exploded in northern Israel at dawn while eight others slammed into the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon without causing any casualties, security sources said.

The rocketing is the latest in a spate of Hezbollah border attacks which Israel has been responding to with increasing ferocity.

The cease-fire monitoring committee meeting was called by Lebanon to protest the death of a 70-year-old farmer who was hit by an Israeli tank shell on Saturday.

Lebanon filed a second complaint with the committee when two Palestinians were killed Monday in an Israeli bombardment. *(AFP)*

Arabs Seek to Delay Mideast Economic Conference

RIYADH — Arab countries are seeking to have the Middle East economic summit set for November in Doha postponed until June 1998, a Saudi newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Ash-Sharq al-Awsat, quoting Arab diplomats, said Egypt was "leading contacts to propose the delay to Qatar."

The proposal will be put to Arab League foreign ministers who are due to meet in Cairo in September, for the delay to be announced in the name of the organization, said the newspaper.

Qatar has said only an Arab League boycott can stop the November 16-18 summit it plans to host with Israel's participation over the protests of several Arab states, notably Syria.

"The threats against Qatar and all the racket can only strengthen its determination to organize the conference because Qatar does not accept threats from anyone," Foreign Minister Hamad ibn Jassem al-Thani said Monday.

On Tuesday, the United States said secretary of state Madeleine Albright will lead its delegation to Doha to underline its support for the conference. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IMPACT...

The Third difference is that the revolutions in Russia and China were based on eastern repudiation of the past, including its culture and tradition, "whereas in the case of Iran, the Islamic Revolution was based upon a revival of the existing Islamic culture deeply ingrained in the country's beliefs and in the Islamic Republic's culture and not in any sense being a movement oriented towards the past that had its roots from indigenous sources".

And finally one must look at the personality of the leader of the Islamic Revolution and it is very plain that the personality of Imam Khomeini was in every respect and different from that of opportunistic and unscrupulous politicians such as Lenin.

Algar stressed that one thing the leaders share in common was that they were all politicians; further, whereas the long-term success of political leaders was very limited.

Imam Khomeini was not exactly a political leader for he was a scholar and a person who represented Islam in its highest manifestation.

Considering all the aforesaid differences, the University professor concluded that there is hardly any common feature between the Islamic Revolution of Iran and other revolutions in the world.

Turning to the impact of the Late Imam Khomeini's ideas and the Islamic Revolution on the oppressed people of the world, he said that of course the initial impact was very great not only among Muslims but also in on the people of non-Muslim countries as well.

He noted that in the years immediately following the Iranian Revolution he had the opportunity to travel quite widely to Africa and South-East Asia. He noted that in those places he observed the people to have a very positive interest in the Revolution.

Algar attributes the fact to people's great reverence for Imam Khomeini, especially the Muslims, who consider his contributions to the revival of Islam as an undeniable political force. However, he stressed, "certain factors have prevented the influence of the revolution from being as widespread as it ought to be."

He said that Iraq imposed a war on the Islamic Republic on behalf of the United States. He says this has led to an incorrect perception that Iran somehow was the adversary of the Arab world.

The Saudis have conducted very widespread propaganda to the effect of the revolution of Iran is primarily or even exclusively a Shia phenomenon and somehow represents a danger to Sunni Muslims. It may also be said that the efforts of the Islamic Republic in making known the truth and its true nature and introducing the ideas of Imam Khomeini have not been as effective as it was intended to be, he continued.

Algar who took part in the congress to discuss Imam Khomeini's thoughts held here in June, said that the conference was very useful as far as its objectives were concerned, but that from practical aspect more works are required to be done.

For example, he said, in the conference which was supposed to to focus on the thoughts of the Late Imam Khomeini did not even have any books on the Imam available. "I had to ask for books to be made available in order to take them back with me, he stressed.

I think there are certain negative factors existing abroad but the relevant authorities and organizations in the Islamic Republic need to take a fresh look at the methods of propagation, he said.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

UN CHIEF...

"This is my pledge to you, and to the world, that starting today, we begin a quiet revolution in the United Nations," Annan told the assembled delegates.

"The reforms I am proposing are bold reforms. They are the most extensive and far-reaching reforms in the fifty-two year history of our organization," he said.

But while the measures under his own authority are to take place immediately, Annan proposed only longer-term steps requiring the assent of the 185 UN member states.

The Ghanaian secretary general, who took over from Boutros Boutros-Ghali in January after Washington ensured the Egyptian's ouster, made it clear that no job losses were entailed in the reforms, apart from 1,000 already confirmed.

Any administrative saving is to be channelled into a development fund, with at least $200 million expected to be available for the biennium beginning in 2002.

With an eye on the financial crisis, Annan also proposed a voluntary revolving credit fund of up to one billion dollars, enabling states to obtain interest for pledging funds to plug gaps in financing.

Among other highlights of the reform package are plans to centralize UN efforts against crime, drugs and terrorism in Vienna.

Annan confirmed that he planned to name a deputy secretary-general, to improve cross-sectoral coordination under his new "cabinet-style" leadership.

The report says that inter-agency cooperation can be enhanced by sharing UN facilities in the field, to be designated as UN house in each country.

On the humanitarian front, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in New York is to be replaced by a slimmed-down version stripped of its operational functions and renamed the emergency relief coordinator.

The UN chief called for a ministerial-level commission to review for the first time the UN Charter and the treaties governing the specialized agencies.

He also proposed convening a General Assembly in the year 2000, to be known as the "Millenium Assembly" to focus on preparing the United Nations for the next century. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

DAMASCUS...

Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem (Bait-ul-Moqaddas)."

It also "demands that Israel, the occupying power, immediately cease and reverse all actions taken illegally under international law against Palestinian Jerusalemites."

A total of 131 states voted in favor of the resolution, Israel, the United States and Micronesia voted against and 14 other countries abstained. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IRAN...

of war which has been stipulated in the protocol signed on 27th June.

Failure to implement the clause for exchange of POWs and prisoners during the stated time, said Mohammadi, had raised concern over the full implementation of the accord. But fortunately, he added, following joint efforts the necessary coordination for exchange of POWs has been prepared and is to be executed from July 18-to-20.

He hoped that despite the delay in implementation of the accord, the bases for establishment of peace and tranquility in Tajikistan would be further consolidated in a practical way.

In conclusion, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stipulated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to exert all its efforts to materialize objectives in this connection.

Meanwhile, Mohammadi hailed the release from prison of a group of Algerian Islamic leaders as a positive step.

Mohammadi said the Islamic Republic of Iran considers release of the Islamic leaders from prison in Algeria as an step towards restoring democracy and putting an end to violence in that country.

The Algerian military prosecutor on Tuesday granted conditional release to number one figure of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Abbas Madani.

Mohammadi expressed hope that such actions on the part of the Algerian government would serve to pave the way for stability and reconstruction in Algeria. *(IRNA)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PALESTINIAN..

Witnesses said the soldiers opened fire on Nawadreh as he sat apart from the Melee.

Four other Palestinians were wounded Tuesday night in the same area of Beit Sahur when Israeli soldiers opened fire with rubber bullets on protesting youths who pelted them with rocks.

Violent Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have intensified over the past month amid a four-month freeze in the peace process sparked by Israeli settlement building. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

LEADER...

Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces Brigadier-General Lotfian gave a report on the performance of the police force while the Managing-Director of the Social Welfare Organization, Karbasyan, briefed on the activities of his organization. *(IRNA)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

UN...

feared that such a resolution could be first step towards sanctions.

European delegations pressed Arab states to water down their original text which sought to "halt any support" for the settlements and would have imposed a clear import-export ban.

Israel undertook a major lobbying campaign in a bid to persuade Western governments to cast negative votes, Western diplomats said.

U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson voted against the resolution saying that it was tantamount to "a demand for a partial economic boycott of Israel."

Israeli Charge d'Affaires David Peleg said after the resolution's adoption that "it is the easy road, but it is the road that will take us nowhere."

UN General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, but diplomats said that the emergency special session vote would give the resolution additional weight. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

CAMBODIAN...

faction who also threw his support behind Ung Huot.

Parliament had been due to reconvene on April 21 but the session was postponed after Toan Chhay's faction split with Prince Ranariddh. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 2)

IRAN...

to abide by the wishes of the international community, Kharrazi considered the report submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary General Kofi Annan as a clear indication of Israeli regime's total disregard for the rules of international law.

Annan, in his report published on June 26, confirmed that the construction of Israeli settlements continues unabated. He left the final decision on how to deal with Israel to the General Assembly.

Kharrazi expressed deep concern of the residents of the occupied territories and the Muslims throughout the world on the upsurge of violence resulting from the building of Israeli settlements as well as the insults against the Holy Prophet of Islam (S).

He appealed to the General Assembly to condemn such heinous acts at a time when the Security Council has failed to prevent the blatant and persistant violations of international law by Israel. He called on the emergency session of the General Assembly to consider further measures under the charter to maintain international peace and security.

According to another IRNA report, Kharrazi sent a letter to the UN secretary general on Tuesday, underlining that the Islamic Republic of Iran, itself is a victim of terrorism, condemns it in all shapes and forms and demands international cooperation to confront the dangerous phenomenon.

Responding to the Israeli claims linking Iran to international terrorism, the letter, which was published as an official record of UN General Assembly as well as the Security Council, read, "it is public knowledge that Israel uses terrorism to advance its expansionist goals."

The letter cited opperession of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, kidnapping of innocent people in Lebanon, and elimination of the Palestinian activists as evidences of Israeli use of terrorism to achieve its goals.

It went on to say that the international community and UN should beware of Israeli tactics to accuse others of terrorism as a mean of shifting focus from its own illegitimate activities.

The Israeli envoy to UN had recently written a letter to the UN secretary general accusing Libya, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria of using terrorism as a means to advance their goals and had asked the international community to take steps to confront this phenomenon.

(Contd from Pg. 12)

PALESTINIAN...

spare no effort to strengthen their foothold all over the world.

They use the diplomacy of force and intimidation as a whitewash to cover up their crimes. They always claim that they want a lasting peace in the Middle East and occupied Palestine, but everyone clearly knows that it is a blatant lie.

Today all the Palestinian youths believe that both the United States and Zionist regime are veteran plotters and liars who claim they are supporting human rights.

It is very painful to see that Palestinian youths hopelessly wished to live in their own home, to be secure from the torture of Zionists, to attain their independence and determine their fate by themselves.

The Palestinian youths relentlessly continue their campaign against Zionists. They, under any condition, will withstand against Zionists. They will safeguard their Islamic principles and values vis-a-vis Zionist aggressors.

The will continue their stride till the liberation of the Holy Qods from the hands of criminal Zionists. Their ultimate goal is to return to their own lands and they want their rights to be restored.

The Iranian pious nation has always extended hands of friendship to Palestinian people and has always supported their struggle against aggressors and the archenemies of Islam.

(Contd. From Pg. 6)

BATTLE....

Mariano Herran Salvatti, special anti-drug prosecutor in the attorney general's office, said Thursday that Carrillo's demise "does not signify the disappearance of the Cartel."

Herran Salvatti identified the so-called narco diplomat - Juan Jose Esparragoza Moreno - as a Juarez Cartel member believed to have laundered some 165 million dollars over the last few months.

Trained as an attorney, Esparragoza, 48, hails from the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, home to many of Mexico's most powerful drug lords.

During the first half of the 1980s, he was a midlevel chieftain under Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, the "godfather of Mexican drug trafficking" who was jailed in Mexico in 1989.

Esparragoza himself served seven years in a Mexican prison on drug charges. After his 1990 release he assumed a new role - peacemaker among the smuggling Cartels. Recently, he is believed to have become more closely involved with the Juarez group.

Zeta, which reports extensively on Mexican drug smuggling developments, on Friday mentioned both Esparragoza and Eduardo Gonzalez Quirarte, a top Juarez Cartel lieutenant, as possible Carrillo successors.

Some consider Gonzalez Quirarte the No. 2 man in Carrillo's organization, said *Zeta*.

It also said he was the alleged contact between Carrillo and Gen. Jesus Gonzalez Gutierrez, the Mexican drug Czar arrested in February on charges of accepting bribes from Carrillo's gang.

No matter who ends up on top, the fight to get there will cause "an internal disarray that surely could have repercussions," Mexican special prosecutor Herran Salvatti said. *(AP)*



Cohen
on New

Cohen Faces Choice on New Military Chief



WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary William Cohen returned from Europe Monday, facing the ticklish task of choosing a new military chief, a crucial appointment that blew up on him the first time around.

Cohen said he hoped a decision would be announced this week, but gave no hint whom he would recommend to replace General John Shalikashvili as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

"I'd rather keep you guessing," he told reporters as he flew home from a tour of central European countries that followed the NATO summit in Madrid.

The pick is especially sensitive because Cohen's first choice for the job, air force General Joseph Ralston, withdrew his nomination last month after the disclosure of an adulterous affair sparked an outcry in Congress.

Cohen has said prospective candidates for the post will be asked if they knew of anything that might hurt their confirmation, but he would not rule out a worthy candidate purely because of a past indiscretion.



Speculation, meanwhile, has mounted over who Cohen and the president will turn to to lead the military through a period of both budget constraints and revolutionary change in military technology.

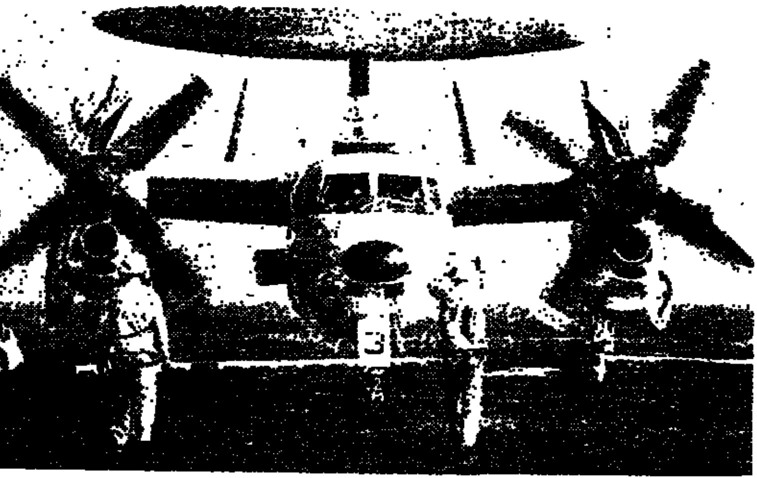
Officers of four star rank are eligible, the first among them being the commanders-in-chiefs of the five war fighting commands and the chiefs of the four services.

The chiefs of service are discounted by some observers as too parochial to overcome rivalries with other services and lead the entire military, and the field of commanders-in-chiefs also is fraught with problems.

This has led to some military speculation that Cohen may reach beyond the active duty generals and choose a retired officer to be the chief military adviser to the president and the defense secretary.

Names mentioned include that of retired General Barry McCaffrey, a former commander-in-chief of the Panama-based southern command who is now Clinton's principal adviser on the war on drugs.

Retired Admiral William



Owens, a former vice chairman on the joint chiefs, is another intriguing possibility.

Owens, a brilliant military thinker, was a forceful advocate for linking computers, precision guided weapons, unmanned surveillance drones and satellites in an overarching "system of systems" that many believe will revolutionize the way wars are fought.

His ideas are at the heart of the Pentagon's recently completed reassessment of military strategy, called the quadrennial defense review (QDR), which calls for a steady effort to reshape the military with the new technologies.

Cohen has the option of asking Shalikashvili to stay on, but the general has made clear he wants to leave.

The generals most often cited are army General Wesley Clark, General George Joulwan, navy admiral T. Joseph Lopez, marine corps commandant General Charles Krulak.

Others are army General Hugh Shelton, commander of the special operations command, and air force General Howell Estes, head of the U.S. space command and a former operations director of the joint chiefs.

But none is a clear favorite, and there are arguments against most of them.

Clark, for instance, just assumed command of U.S. forces in Europe and the post of NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), and to pull him out a few days later would be awkward diplomatically.

Joulwan, his predecessor as SACEUR, is said to be looking forward to retirement.

Lopez, the commander of the U.S. sixth fleet and NATO's southern command in Naples, is well liked but some say is not in a senior enough command.

Krulak, who has made morals a part of marine basic training, might be an appealing choice for a military buffeted sex scandals and questions about how to handle relations between the sexes in a gender-integrated all volunteer army. No marine has ever been chairman. (Reuter)

Saudi Council Expansion Increases Popular Debate





DUBAI— Saudi Arabia's unelected Shura council, hailed by King Fahd as a successful experiment, is the nearest thing in the conservative kingdom to a forum for popular debate.

The expansion of the country's only representative body to 90 members, all men, from 60 increases popular discussion in the affairs of the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

Council members include active and retired military officers, senior government officials, business executives, members of large tribes and the Shi'ite Muslim minority but no women, who are barred.

In the four years since the king formed the council it has not developed into an independent political body and Saudis say it is wrong to measure it against Western democratic ideas.

Political power remains firmly in the hands of the large al-Saud royal family, whose princes control the kingdom's oil wealth and dominate organs of administration.

King Fahd, his designated heir crown Prince Abdullah and defense minister Prince Sultan attended the oath-taking ceremony at the royal court at al-Salam Palace in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Monday.

"The Shura council which opens its second session today has become a successful experiment in all standards. It made many accomplishments in its first session," the king was quoted as saying by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

King Fahd formed the council in December 1993 as Saudi Arabia's first representative body in nearly 60 years. Along with the appointment of regional assemblies in 13 provinces, its establishment was seen as a first step towards giving Saudis more say in running the country.

The king had promised after the 1990-91 Persian Gulf crisis over Iraq's invasion of neighbouring Kuwait to gradually introduce political and economic reforms aimed at modernizing the Saudi system of government, which is dominated by senior princes.

The Shura has a purely advisory function and no powers to make laws. Political parties are banned.

In the Arabian Peninsula, only Saudi Arabia's neighbours Kuwait and Yemen have elected assemblies although the small state of Qatar is moving towards polls for municipal bodies.

"Everyone thought it would be a rubber stamp and that would be all. But on a few of the technical and economic policies it has actually made a few suggestions which have been accepted," a diplomat in Riyadh told Reuters by telephone.

"They don't make any pretence that it is like a Western-style parliament and it is isn't. But at least it's an advisory body and it does mean they're taking on board some other views rather than those of just the royal family."

Council members were not supposed to be an average collection of Saudis, another diplomat said. "They are supposed to be the wisest men in the land. They are all highly qualified. Most of them have got high university degrees and have reached the top of whatever field they have been in."

The council discussed only what was sent to it by the council of ministers (cabinet). Its advice was then sent back to the government confidentially and was not revealed.

"Most Saudis have taken it in the spirit in which it was intended: as an increase in the opportunity for the king to consult with people who represent Saudi opinion and as such it has been considered to have been a success," the diplomat added.

The council's president, Sheikh Mohammad bin Jubair, is a Sunni Muslim scholar and former justice minister who says Western and Islamic versions of democracy cannot be compared.

"Unlike Western democracies, we never legislate, but we just organize the initially existing principles," SPA quoted him as saying earlier this year.

He said Western democracies and parliaments undertook the reponsibility of legislation because Westerners, unlike Muslims, lacked the principles that governed their way of life.

Saudi Arabia's Islamic Sharia law is the sole authority showing people what is right and what is wrong, he said. (Reuter)

Vietnam Gears Up for Low-Key Elections



HANOI— In some countries, the days leading up to a nation-wide election come alive with cut-and-thrust debate and frantic last-minute campaigning for votes.

Don't expect the same in Vietnam this week as the communist-ruled country gears up to elect deputies for the National Assembly's next five-year tenure.

"We do not use the phrase 'contesting the National Assembly elections'," the legislature's chairman, Nong Duc Manh, said in a recent radio interview. "This is because we do not challenge each other in the elections."

"I should also say that a candidate should not speak ill of other candidates..." he said.

When polling stations open across the country next Sunday, the people of Vietnam will be granted their constitutional right to exercise power. Just how much power is open to question.

With 664 candidates running for 450 seats, two-thirds can be sure of victory. Only 11 are self-nominated candidates, just 112 are not members of the party, and all of them have been approved by the Fatherland Front, a socio-political umbrella organization.

"At first it seems rather undemocratic," Nguyen Si Dung, director of the assembly's center for information, told Reuters in an interview. "But actually it's not that bad."

Dung said that by the time election day arrives, assembly hopefuls have been through a gruelling process of scrutiny by a range of mass organizations and voters in their constituencies.

"The candidates are all the same to me," said one Hanoi voter. "I'll just go down the list, look at their birth dates and choose the youngest guys."

That scepticism could stem from a common perception that the assembly is little more than a rubber-stamp for decisions made by the non-elected government and, above that, by the party's powerful politburo.

Officials deny that, and point to the fact that 16 percent of the candidates are not party members, almost double the proportion of non-members in the outgoing assembly.

For Bradley Babson, the World Bank's representative in Hanoi, the legislature has become a "melting pot of national thinking" during the past decade of social and economic reform.

"It is genuinely debating legal and policy matters, genuinely providing feedback to the government on the perception of its performance, genuinely holding individual ministers accountable for the activities..." he told Reuters in an interview.

The 51-year-old National Assembly, which holds two one-month sittings a year, has indeed begun to flex a few muscles.

As "the highest organ of state power", the National Assembly is officially responsible for appointing senior officials from among its ranks, including the president and prime minister.

Since President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet — both men in their mid-70s — are not standing for re-election to the assembly, they will stand down when the newly mandated deputies meet for the first time in September.

Officials say that with the elections out of the way and new leaders installed, the country's reform process will get a much-needed shot in the arm.

Although Vietnam is still enjoying one of the best economic growth rates in the world, deep-seated problems in the banking industry and the state sector are now coming home to roost. (Reuter)

China Arrests Woman for Poisoning 32 Neighbors

SHANGHAI — A Chinese woman has been arrested for killing five neighbors by lacing their food with rat poison after a village dispute.

Altogether 32 people had been poisoned in the village in central Hunan Province, the newspaper said, adding that two had gone mad and 14 were still in hospital.

The woman had admitted adding the poison to her neighbors' food five times since last August, it said. It gave no details of the nature of the dispute.

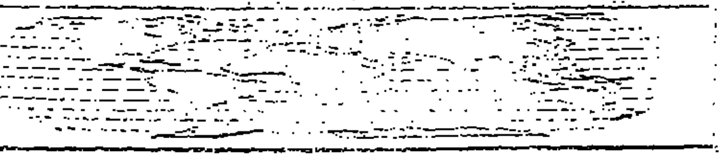
(Reuter)

New York Cabbie Returns Passenger's Savings

NEW YORK — An honest New York taxi driver returned almost $33,000 in life savings to an elderly woman who left the money in the back of his cab, officials said.

They praised driver Qurbe Tirmizi for refusing a reward from the 71-year-old part-time nurse, who had been carrying her money around in a leather bag because she feared being robbed by a neighbor. She said she found her bank account "inconvenient".

(Reuter)



More Than 100 People Killed in Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda — Clashes between Rwandan Army and Hutu rebels in Rwanda's north have left more than 170 people dead, including civilians. The Tutsi-led military had killed 136 Hutu rebels in two separate areas in Ruhengeri during weekend clashes.

Armed Men Rob UN Worker

KABUL — Armed men broke into the home of a United Nations worker in Kabul, tied up a foreign female UN worker and a guard and robbed them of jewelry, carpets and cash.

Palestinian Teen-Ager Dies of Army Gunshot Wounds

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — A Palestinian teen-ager who was shot in the head earlier this week during a clash with Israeli troops died of his wounds Wednesday.

Monsoon Floods Kill 106 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Army helicopters Wednesday ferried food, drinking water and medicines to control an outbreak of typhoid and dysentery in flooded areas where 106 people have died.

Interior Ministry Says Kuwaiti Boy Drowned

CAIRO, Egypt — A 4-year-old Kuwaiti boy found dead in his hotel room drowned and his sisters are suspected of writing a note suggesting that the death was the work of Iraqi agents, the Interior Ministry said.

EU Assembly Approves Patenting of Human Materials

STRASBOURG — A controversial plan to allow companies in the European Union to win patents covering certain human body parts and other living material cleared its first hurdle in the European Parliament on Wednesday.

Turkish Military Plane Crashes

ANKARA — A Turkish military plane crashed in western Turkey on Wednesday, injuring three military personnel.

Letter Bomb Sent to Popular TV News Woman

TOKYO — A letter bomb addressed to a popular female newscaster exploded at her Tokyo television station's headquarters on Wednesday, injuring one person.

Chinese Fishermen Freed in Philippines

MANILA — Twenty-one Chinese fishermen arrested for entering territory disputed by the Philippines and China have been freed on Wednesday.

India Releases 194 Pakistani Fishermen

KARACHI — A total of 194 Pakistani fishermen released by India arrived Wednesday on board a special flight, a day after 193 Indian fishermen jailed here returned home under a bilateral accord.

More Than 50 in Northeast China Heatwave

BEIJING — More than 50 people have died in the Chinese city of Tianjin following the most severe heatwave in 50 years.

Prince Charles Holds 50th Bash for Camilla

LONDON — In the most publicly-scrutinized private party of the year, Prince Charles throws a 50th birthday bash on Friday for Camilla Parker Bowles in a declaration of a 25-year love that refuses to die.

Pager Cheats Caught Out in China Exam

HONG KONG — Two students used a pager to cheat in a college entrance exam in the Chinese city of Qingdao. One of the women was found taking notes from the pager messages during her maths examination. She later confessed that a classmate, who had completed the exam earlier, sent the answers by pager. The two had failed in entrance examination last year.

Eiffel Tower Shut Down by Strike Over Sacked Worker

PARIS — The French capital's foremost tourist attraction, the Eiffel Tower, was shut down Wednesday by striking workers outraged because a fellow employee was sacked for insulting and shoving a British tourist.

Islamic Conference Asks West Not to Fear Jihad

CAIRO — An Islamic conference here appealed Wednesday for the West not to fear calls for Jihad, or holy war, which it said are often misinterpreted but are legitimate acts of defense recognized by international law.

The final resolution of the International Conference on Dialoge between Islam and the West, which ended Wednesday, said that "Jihad is lawful in Islam for dealing with aggression and injustice.

"It's a legitimate act of defense recognized in principle by international law," the resolution said.

Delegations from 85 countries particpated in the conference, which opened Sunday and was organized by the highest Sunni Muslim authority, Cairo-based Al-Azhar.

The resolution also called for "international media not to publish articles which could fan hatred between the members of different faiths."

It also said that academic books should "demonstrate more tolerance for other beliefs."

The conference participants also denounced "terrorism in any form" and called on the media "to stop likening terrorism to Islam and Muslims."

"It is not necessary to mix the legitimate defense against aggression and occupation with criminal actions perpetrated by fanaticism or racism under the cover of religion," they said.

The conference also called for "non-Muslim countries to let Muslims practice their religion in its entirety, that is, not just in prayer but in personal rights, too."

(AFP)

Soldiers Injured in Inter-Korean Firefight

SEOUL — North Korean soldiers were seriously injured Wednesday when South Korea launched a "grave military provocation," the North's state-run media said.

"The firing left some of the People's Army soldiers seriously injured and destroyed outpost buildings," the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) added.

KCNA, monitored here, gave no figures but military sources in Seoul said it appeared between two and seven North Koreans were injured in the firefight in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the Korean Peninsula.

KCNA also said the South had fired "about 3,060 shells and bullets in all" from recoilless guns and 12.7 millimeter machine guns.

"The People's Army soldiers were compelled to take self-defensive measures under the grave situation," it said, characterizing the ensuing 23-minute firefight as "a fierce armed conflict" and "a reckless armed provocation."

In Seoul, a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman said North and South Korean troops exchanged heavy machine gun fire after seven Northern soldiers crossed into the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone. (AFP)

Euro[illegible] Commiss[illegible] Course [illegible] Larger E[illegible]

STRASBO[illegible] — The European [illegible] on Wednesday [illegible] for the European Union [illegible] the next century, [illegible] unveiling plans to embrace [illegible] members of the former communist bloc.

Publishing [illegible] has dubbed Agenda 2000, the Commission said Poland, [illegible], the Czech Republic, [illegible] and Slovenia should be [illegible] to begin EU membership [illegible] along with Cyprus next year.

It also called for a reform of the EU's common agricultural policy and its [illegible] programs for the bloc [illegible] and regions [illegible] the enlargement [illegible] the economic [illegible].

Documents [illegible] by the commission [illegible] the readiness [illegible] European countries for [illegible] also said [illegible] Lithuania, [illegible] and Romania [illegible] the grade [illegible] in what [illegible] where [illegible] for membership [illegible].

[illegible]

Manhunt Is on for Versace Killer

MIAMI BEACH — Police and FBI agents scoured south Florida on Wednesday in a huge manhunt for the alleged serial killer accused of murdering Italian fashion king Gianni Versace at his Miami Beach mansion.

FBI special agent in charge Paul Philip said alleged killer Andrew Cunanan, one of America's most wanted men even before the Versace slaying, could still be hiding in the Miami area.

Cunanan was wanted in connection with four previous murders during a two-week cross-country killing spree that began in Minneapolis in April.

Versace, who dressed the world's most beautiful people, was shot twice in the head on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion by a lone gunman on Tuesday evening. (Reuter)

HAWAII, United States (July 14): TV grab of a lava flow measuring six miles (ten kilometers) visible off the coast of Hawaii. The lava spilled into the ocean over the weekend from the Kilauea Volcano. Piles of ash and rock have built up near the water's edge and a plume of steam stretches into the sky.

(AFP PHOTO)

U.S. Soldier Stabbed, Another Explosion in Bosnia

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A U.S. soldier was stabbed by a civilian in Serb territory Wednesday, in the latest attack on foreigners since NATO moved against Bosnian Serb war crime suspects.

The American, with the NATO peace force, was attacked near Serb-held Kladanj. U.S. Army spokesmen in Tuzla said he was stabbed from behind with a sickle and received treatment for a two to three inch (five to 7 1-2 centimeter) wound in the shoulder, then released. The attacker apparently escaped.

Earlier in the day, a hand grenade exploded near the house of a UN employee - the third recent blast near residences of international officials. (AP)

Pustovoitenko Confirmed as Ukraine Prime Minister

KIEV — The Ukrainian Parliament confirmed Valery Pustovoitenko as prime minister by a wide margin on Wednesday, endorsing the choice of President Leonid Kuchma.

Deputies in the former Soviet republic voted for him 226 votes to 91. Previously a minister without portfolio, the 50-year-old Pustovoitenko replaces Pavlo Lazarenko, who resigned. Addressing the chamber before the vote, the new premier said Ukraine would stay on the track of economic reform.

Kuchma, praising the result of the vote, told reporters that Parliament would be more involved in the formation of the new government but declined to say what changes he intended to make in the cabinet.

Before the vote, Pustovoitenko said his main priorities would be stimulation of private enterprises, reduction of taxes and diminishing the size of the shadow economy.

He also said he aimed to solve the problem of a huge backlog of unpaid wages, estimated at four billion hryvnias ($2.1 billion).

Pustovoitenko, who is the seventh prime minister in the six years of Ukraine's post-Soviet history, is very close to Kuchma and is widely seen as pragmatic and as having good managerial experience and skills. (Reuter)

Brazil Rebuffs Fears of Asian Crisis

BRASILIA, Brazil — The deficit is up, cash reserves are down, and Brazil's eyes are on the troubled Asian Tigers - until recently the model of development for emerging nations.

The Sao Paulo stock market, Brazil's largest, closed down 8.5 percent Tuesday, the largest drop this year. The plunge followed a 3.5 percent loss on Monday, which traders attributed to foreign investors pulling their money out of Brazil to cover losses in Asia.

In the capital, the government's economic team vowed that Brazil won't follow the same path as Thailand, Malasia and the Philippines, where the currency was devalued and interest rates raised to stem the flight of foreign investors.

Finance Minister Pedro Malan said the Asian crisis was an exception rather than a rule for developing nations.

For Yustavo Loyola, president of Brazil's Central Bank, "the market is calm, with no expectations of a currency devaluation."

But Brazil has disturbing similarities to the Asian trouble spots. Among them are an elevated current-account deficit and an overvalued currency.

On Monday, Brazil's Central Bank announced a deficit for the first six months of $15.6 billion - more than double the deficit in the first half of 1996. Current accounts include foreign trade, debt payments and overseas travel.

For economists, a key measure of a nation's economic health is the deficit as a percentage of annual output of goods and services, or gross domestic product. Up to 2 percent is generally considered good. Thailand's deficit is nearly 8 percent. Brazil's is 4.2 percent and rising.

Another problem is the exchange rate. When Brazil created the real in 1994, it made the currency strong against the U.S. dollar. That helped to lower inflation but made exports more expensive and imports cheaper.

As a result, the trade deficit ballooned to $5.5 billion last year and hit $4.7 billion in the first six months of 1997. Meanwhile, the government keeps the exchange rate under tight controls.

"In the short run, I don't see problems," said Paulo Nogueira Batista, an economist with the prestigious Getulio Vargas foundation. But when the crisis is over, he said, Brazil should let the real "float" upward to ease the deficit.

Other analysts say only a massive injection of funds from Japan and its neighbors can calm the market's nervousness.

Malan said the deficit "is not worrisome" because imports have long-term financing and direct foreign investment continues to flow in. That shows investors believe in Brazil, he said.

"A country's vulnerability is related to the perception of investors as to the ability to finance the economy," Malan said. "If investors are analytical they will see the differences between countries."

Meanwhile, Brazil is dipping into its cash reserves of $60 billion. Reserves fell by $1.7 billion in a month - and raised memories of the "peso crisis" in Mexico that cost Brazil $6.5 billion.

Brazilians insist there's no comparison.

"Mexico is Latin America, and that why we took such a strong hit," said a confident Altamir Lopes, the head of the central bank's economic department. "But now no money will evaporate from here." (AP)

Japanese Economy Continues Gradual Recovery

TOKYO — Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita said Monday the Japanese economy was on a firm recovery track, while noting the need to monitor further developments in managing monetary policy in the near future.

The economy "is continuing its gradual recovery on the back of the firmness of (industrial) output and wages," Matsushita said at the start of the Central Bank's quarterly branch managers meeting.

The negative impact of the April 1 rise in consumption tax "continues to be seen," but the increase from three percent to five percent is unlikely to undermine the recovery in consumer spending, he said.

"The possibility is modest that the recovery path will be broken, given the modest improvement in the labor and wages environment," he said.

Matsushita noted private-sector capital spending was maintaining its steady growth, as leading industries continued to enjoy growth, both in revenues and profits.

But he said further assessment on the sustainability of the recovery and the subsequent tempo of the recovery would be needed.

(AFP)

Oil Prices Surge as North Sea Supply Crimps

LONDON — World oil markets climbed higher on Tuesday, backed by a rally in gasoline in the United States and tighter supply of North Sea crude next month.

But many dealers expected downward pressure to reassert itself over the next few days as the resumption of Iraqi oil exports gets closer.

Brent crude oil, the world benchmark, closed up 59 cents at $18.41 a barrel on the London futures market.

Crude oil flows from Norwegian oilfields will tighten in August due to maintenance and Brent blend crude is due to load three fewer cargoes than this month.

Also, gasoline in the United States was 1-1/2 cents a gallon firmer, helping underpin gains on crude oil.

But reduced flows from the North Sea are not as dramatic as dealers had expected and some saw the chance of weakening prices.

"The Iraqi oil isn't going to go away," said a trader.

Foreign officials in Baghdad said on Tuesday there were no major obstacles in the way of Iraq resuming oil sales after news on Monday that a food distribution plan had been finalized.

The lack of a food distribution scheme had been holding up the renewal of an "oil-for-food" deal between Iraq and the United Nations.

The accord allows Iraq to sell some $2.14 billion worth of oil every 180 days in exchange for food and humanitarian aid.

The deal began on December 10 and ran initially for 180 days. It was renewed from June 8 but has been stalled pending receipt of the new distribution plan.

Iraq's oil minister has said that he expected oil exports to begin at a rate of around 740,000 barrels per day (bpd).

But traders said delays could mean Iraqi exports of around a million bpd to make up for lost time compared to an average of just 670,000 bpd in the first period of the deal.

Also putting downward pressure on prices was Germany's plan to sell 2.8 million barrels of crude oil from stocks.

The sale is due to start in the week beginning August 4, which might coincide with the first iraqi sales.

Despite the bearish outlook for crude oil in August and growing output in the fourth quarter, dealers saw good support in some areas of the oil products' market.

Gasoline for August delivery on the U.S. east coast has leapt around four cents a gallon over the past few weeks and dealers are eagerly awaiting stock figures due to be released Later on Tuesday.

"It's possible that gasoline might help support the whole complex," said Charles Gray at prudential bache in London.

(Reuter)

Albright to Attend Middle East Economic Summit

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will attend a Middle East economic summit involving Israel and its Arab neighbors in Doha in November, the State Department said on Tuesday.

"She does plan to lead the U.S. delegation," spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

Since talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke down in March, Saudi Arabia has said it will boycott the meeting, held annually since 1994.

Other key Arab states, including Egypt and Morocco, have said they will wait to see if there is any progress in the peace process. Jordan said it would go only if other Arab states attended.

Albright's predecessor Warren Christopher attended similar meetings in previous years, and Washington has urged all Arab states to attend.

Burns said Albright had no plans at this stage to visit anywhere else in the Middle East at that time or to visit the region earlier.

(Reuter)

Asian Currencies Open Weaker, Korean Won Under Pressure

SINGAPORE — Most Southeast Asian currencies opened weaker against the U.S. dollar Wednesday as the South Korean won came under pressure amid fears that speculative funds could turn their sights on north Asia.

the Malaysian ringgit, the focus of attention after the de facto devaluation of the Thai baht and the Philippine peso, fell to 2.5650 to the Greenback from Tuesday's close of 2.5555.

"There was two-way interest in trades with traces of dollar profit-taking but the market is anxious about persistent talk about capital control measures by Kuala Lumpur to check currency volatility," a dealer with a European Bank said.

Alison Seng, analyst with U.S. investment house MMS International here, said the current dollar-ringgit level was "pretty much consolidative."

"Unless it breaks out of the 2.5500-2.5700 range, you cannot consider it a major change," she said.

The Singapore dollar also traded lower early Wednesday to 1.4432 against the Greenback in Tandem with ringgit play, dealers said. The Singapore unit ended Tuesday at 1.4425.

The Indonesian rupiah dipped to 2,453.00 against the U.S. dollar from 2,448.50 on Tuesday while the peso traded lower at 29.50, compared to the last completed transaction of 29.00 to the dollar Tuesday.

The Baht was slightly higher at 29.85 to the U.S. dollar from its Tuesday close of 29.975 in cautious trading amid rumors from offshore traders that Thai Central Bank governor Rerngchai Marakanonda was resigning.

Dealers said the South Korean Central Bank intervened Wednesday as the won broke out of its recent uptrend level of 890 to weaken to 892 against the dollar.

"People are looking at further weakness for the won after the Kia scandal," Seng of MMS International said.

South Korean banks stepped in Tuesday to rescue the Kia group, the country's eighth largest business conglomerate whose car-making flagship had been battered by slumping sales.

Andy Tan, general manager of MMS International here, on Tuesday raised the possibility of hedge funds attacking several north Asian currencies, including the new Taiwan dollar and the Korean won.

"Almost all the southeast Asian currencies have come under attack, except maybe the Singapore dollar. That leaves the possibility of funds moving to north Asia whose currencies suffer from some form of inherent weakeness or another," Tan said.

(AFP)

OECD Says Low-Paid at Risk From Wrong Policies

PARIS — Rich countries risk creating poverty traps for the low-paid or pricing them out of work through some of the policies they have been devising for boosting employment, the OECD says.

The Paris-based think-tank says in a new report that getting a job is only part of the battle for millions of low-paid workers who earn less than two-thirds of the average salary.

Policies to encourage them into work with benefits, or guarantee them a floor wage, could spoil their prospects for gaining a foothold in less fragile, higher-paid employment.

"Remaining in employment with good prospects of climbing up the earnings ladder proves quite difficult for many low-paid workers, not least women, mature adults and the less-skilled," the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in an annual employment outlook released on the internet.

Joblessness in the 29-nation OECD is expected to drop by only one million, or half a percent, this year, to 35 million people, or seven percent of the workforce, it said last month.

But the OECD is broadly divided between those with high structural unemployment but comfortable social protection or minimum pay, mainly in continental Europe, and lower structural unemployment which has gone hand in hand with ...or reforms.

The second group includes Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Britain, the report said.

Neither has yet found a Panacea for helping the low-paid while leaving the market flexible enough to create extra jobs.

Many people are managing to move out of low-paid jobs but this can be a temporary phenomenon, the OECD said.

"There is also evidence of a 'carousel effect' in all countries for which data are available: many workers seem to move back and forth from low pay to no pay."

Education and training help but take time to offer results.

Meanwhile questions remain over the two basic sets of policies used to ease poverty.

In six OECD countries — Britain, Canada, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and the United States — income-tested benefits are available to top up low pay and provide incentives to seek work.

A U.S. scheme helps roughly six million working taxpayers whose incomes are below the official poverty line.

But such schemes can be costly, especially if available as a generalized payment, and the increased number of low-wage workers can put downward pressure on the very same low wages.

"To the extent this happens, the benefits can cease to meet their income-support goal, even as public spending increased," the OECD survey said.



These problems have led countries such as France, Belgium and the Netherlands to put a floor on wages, coupled with various other fiscal reductions designed to help the lowest earners.

But a wage floor set at too high a level will damage the job prospects of low-paid and inexperienced workers, the OECD said.

The OECD avoided criticizing any individual countries in the report, saying full evidence on the effects of both kinds of approach was still lacking.

But it said the damaging cycle of low pay and no pay would be a central topic for OECD labor ministers at a meeting called for October 1997 to try to help the low-paid and least skilled.

(Reuter)

Permit Issued for 14 New Publications

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The board supervising over the press Monday issued permits for printing of 14 new publications, said spokesman for the board Ali Akbar Ash'ari.

The publications comprise eight periodicals, four weeklies and two bi-weeklies, he told IRNA.



BANJA Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (July 12): Members of the Bosnian Serb leadership, President Biljana Plavsic (R), President of Parliament Dragan Kalinic (C), Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha (3rdL), Vice President Dragoljub Mirjanic (2ndL), and member of the Bosnian presidency Momcilo Krajisnik (L) touch the bread during the traditional Serb "Slava" ceremony in Banja Luka. Beleaguered President Plavsic met her leading hardline rival Krajisnik for the first time here since a power struggle erupted last month.

(AFP PHOTO)

Golden Wedding Couples to Celebrate With UK Queen

LONDON — Buckingham palace opened its gates on Tuesday for a unique garden party, celebrating not the achievements of the great and good but the triumph of love over adversity.

Four thousand couples who married in 1947 and stayed that way had been invited to join Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in a mass celebration of 50 years of marriage.

The Buckingham palace garden party was one of the highlights of events marking the queen's 50th wedding anniversary, reflecting a gone but not quite forgotten golden era when the British royals were the nation's first family.

"It was a great day. It's was a big experience just to see the palace itself," said retired postman Joe Slann, who would be joining the queen and Prince Philip with his wife Edna.

"People get married more than once nowadays, sometimes two or three times, so they never get to have a 50th wedding anniversary. They just have 10 years here and 10 years there," he added sadly.

Tickets, allotted by ballot after advertisements in newspapers around the world, were 10 times oversubscribed for the tea and strawberries event on the lush lawns of Buckingham Palace.

Garden parties have been held since the 1860s. The three that take place in London every summer are normally attended by about 8,000 people, many from government, the civil service and the armed forces. An individual may not apply.

This time married couples were traveling to London from the length and breadth of Britain as well as from former Commonwealth countries for a chance to shake hands with the queen and reminisce about the days when men and women kept their vows to love honor and obey "until death do us part".

According to official statistics, only 10 percent of couples who married in Britain in 1947 have divorced. Of those married in the 1990s, 10 percent are expected to split up in the first five years and 41 percent by 50 years.

About 40 couples were traveling to London from Canada and a similar number from Australia and New Zealand. All had to pay their own travel costs and accommodation.

"They were absolutely excited. They were a delightful group. Some were former servicemen who moved to Canada," said a spokeswoman for the Canadian high commission in London.

Only about 10 percent of the guests were likely to get a chance to speak to the queen on what is normally a formal occasion marked by hats and gloves for ladies and morning dress for gentlemen.

Few of the couples celebrated their wedding in the style of the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, who rode to Westminster abbey on November 20, 1947, in a glass coach for a glittering ceremony that belied the austerity of the immediate post-war years.

Crowds slept all night on the streets then, just as they did for the ill-fated 1981 wedding of the queen's son Prince Charles to Princess Diana. That marriage's bitter collapse 15 years later buried with it much of the nation's respect for the monarchy.

The queen's remaining three children have also failed to inherit the secret of lasting relationships. Prince Andrew and Princess Anne divorced and Prince Edward, 33, has yet to marry. Anne has since remarried.

Incurable romantics Bill and Doreen Lewis went to the garden party after celebrating their own golden wedding by revisiting the same church in Devon, south-west England, where they were married at the same time of day as the royal couple.

"They are both special people in every sense of the word," said their daughter Sheila. "They are the most loving parents and grandparents, giving each and every one of us more love and care than can be imagined."

(Reuter)



Battle Begins for Replacement of Dead Mexican Drug Baron

MEXICO CITY — The king of mexican drug trafficking is dead.

Now many expect a battle over who will succeed Amado Carrillo Fuentes, head of the Juarez Cartel and one of world's most powerful drug barons.

His brother, a top lieutenant and a self-styled "narco-diplomat" are all being named as possible successors to the drug smuggling throne.

"A very close battle will follow," the independent Tijuana weekly *Zeta* predicted on Friday. "Both inside the Juarez Cartel as well as among the rival drug bands.

"First, to see who will occupy the place of the 'lord of the skies,'" it said, referring to Carrillo's nickname. "Later, in the attempt to seize some of the power or market in Carrillo Fuentes' domain."

Carrillo's remains in a silver coffin were lowered into the marble family crypt Friday in his hometown of Guamuchilito. He died July 4 in a Mexico City maternity clinic after undergoing extensive plastic surgery and liposuction.

Some U.S. drug experts have speculated Carrillo, 41, will be replaced by his brother Vicente, 34, named on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's list of top 20 Mexican traffickers.

Vicente Carrillo has overseen gang operations along the U.S.-Mexico border in ciudad Juarez and Ojinaga, both in Chihuahua state, according to reports.

DEA agents have said they believe he has helped receive cocaine-laden aircraft from Colombia, overseen stash sites and arranged transportation to distribution sites. He is under U.S. federal indictment on cocaine charges in Texas.

Mexican smuggling experts on Friday offered other possibilities: a top Carrillo Lieutenant, and a man known as Mexico's "narco-diplomat" for his ability to maintain peace among the smuggling cartels.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



Dolphins Dying Out in India's Ganges

NEW DELHI — India's river Ganges dolphins are dying out because of pollution and excessive fishing, a newspaper reported.

The *Asian Age* quoted R.K. Sinha, a senior researcher at Patna University, as saying the mammals were "under severe threat of extinction."

He said New Delhi should launch protection measures to rival those. The newspaper said the mammals were one of only a handful of freshwater dolphins left in the world.

The newspaper said a 50-kilometre (31-mile) stretch of the ganges had been declared a dolpin sanctuary but no other protection schemes had been proposed.

(AFP)

Tragedy as Disabled New Zealand Couple Die Together Beyond Help

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — A disabled woman died in bed unable to move off her electric blanket after her husband died next to her from an epileptic fit, police said here Monday.

Debra Morris, 34, who suffered cerebral palsy and was unable to move or call out for help, probably died from dehydration, police said.

She relied entirely on her husband, Keith Morris, 25, who had suffered several epileptic seizures in the past.

The couple were found dead in their home by relatives on Saturday, 10 days after they were last seen by their family. The tragedy has left New Zealand stunned.

Neighbours noticed the curtains were closed but assumed the couple, married for less than a year, had gone on holiday. It is thought they had been dead for several days.

"It is absolutely shocking, a very tragic thing," detective senior sergeant John Rae.

The deaths of the young couple have stunned friends and neighbors, who said Debra Morris was worried by the thought of her husband dying, leaving her unable to get help.

Several people spoke of the couple's devotion and love for each other as they struggled to overcome their disabilities together.

The couple, married last August, were looking forward to their first wedding anniversary. They had lived at the house for about two years and had no children.

Friend and neighbor Susan Kerr said the tragedy was an accident waiting to happen.

"One day Keith had an epileptic fit and he lay against the heater, burning his hand, and Debra could do nothing," she said.

After the incident Kerr pleaded with the couple to install an emergency alarm to alert others but they refused. She said the couple took obvious pleasure in their independence.

One friend, Hannah Gorin, said the pair were the most devoted couple she knew. They were happy and outgoing, enjoying their own company as well as that of many friends.

(AFP)

Surrender and We Won't Shoot You

BANGALORE, India — India's most wanted bandit will be allowed to surrender alive as long as he gives himself up along with his nine hostages, state officials said here Monday.

But Veerappan (Eds: one name) a poacher turned killer wanted for about 100 murders and who operates in the forests of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, would be put on trial for his crimes.

J.H. Patel, chief minister of Karnataka state, said "such a menace should not be allowed to continue in our areas," and the authorities had given him eight days to surrender.

He said the police shoot-to-kill policy against Veerappan would be suspended but he would not be allowed to set any conditions to his surrender.

"He must face the legal consequences later," Patel added.

Veerappan, who has a reward of 33,000 dollars on his head, offered to surrender last year in exchange for a pardon. He is also demanding 143,000 dollars and wants to remain armed.

He kidnapped 10 forest officials on Saturday before releasing one of them.

It was his second kidnapping, the first coming in 1994, when a senior Tamil Nadu police officer and his colleagues were abducted before escaping. He is also wanted for sandalwood and ivory poaching.

Police in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka formed a 800-member task force last year to hunt down the outlaw in the forests and hills of the two adjoining states.

He is accused of killing some 100 security personnel, forest guards and suspected "informers" among the villagers during almost a decade on the run in the southern Indian hills.

(AFP)



هكذا من الأصل





THOUGHT

A reform is a correction of abuses: a revolution is a transfer of power.

(Edward Bulwer-Lytton)

PRAYER

Noon............................13.10
Evening..........................20:43
Dawn (tomorrow)............04:15
Sunrise (tomorrow)..........06:00

Get Out and Exercise, Conference Tells Obese

LONDON — People have got to get out and exercise to stop an epidemic of obesity, experts will tell a conference in London this week.

People are eating less, but still getting fat. That means exercise must be the key, Dr. Ken Fox of Exeter University said ahead of Tuesday's conference.

"We know from national surveys that food and fat intake have remained the same or declined at a time when we have seen vast increases in the incidence of obesity," Fox said in a statement released by the government Health Education Authority (HEA), which is sponsoring the conference.

"On the other hand our lifestyles have changed dramatically and inactivity is a root cause of our weight increase."

Experts from Europe and the United States will present findings on exercise and weight loss at the one-day conference.

The HEA said latest figures showed more than half of all Britons were overweight, with 18 percent of women and 15 percent of men clinically obese.

Obesity is linked with heart disease, diabetes and other health problems.

"Physical activity is the key to a fitter, healtheir and fat-free life — and it's never too late to get started," Fox said.

(Reuter)

Researchers: Bacteria Could Cause Heart Attacks

LONDON — British researchers said on Tuesday they had found intriguing evidence that a common bacteria can cause heart attacks.

They said men who had suffered one heart attack and who had antibodies to chlamydia pneumoniae were four times more likely to suffer second heart attacks. Treating them for the infection lowered the risk.

The findings, published in the *American Heart Association* journal circulation, add to a growing body of evidence that heart attacks may sometimes be due to infection rather than genetics or lifestyle.

"We know that antibodies seem to be linked to heart disease," Dr. Sandeep Gupta at St. George's Hospital Medical School in London, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

In addition, the chlamydia bacteria — which cause a chest infection and which are a close relative of a common sexually transmitted disease — have turned up in the fatty plaques that line clogged arteries.

Gupta's british hean foundation team joined the race of researchers trying to establish a more than circumstantial link between the bug and heart attacks.

His team took 213 survivors of heart attacks and divided them into three groups according to how many chlamydia antibodies they had in their blood.

They watched for heart attacks for 18 months.

"The group of heart patients with negative antibodies, they had an approximately seven percent event rate over 18 months," Gupta said.

Those with intermediate levels of antibodies had double that risk, while those with high antibody levels — meaning a bigger chlamydia infection — had a 28 percent "event rate" of heart attacks. That was four times the risk of the group that had no antibodies.

"But the guys that had high antibodies and also got antibiotics, their risk went down to eight percent," Gupta added. They were given a single three-day course of azithromycin, although Gupta said he believed several antibiotics such as tetracycline would also have worked.

"This is a small study," Gupta noted. He said his team would now start a two-year study with 2,500 volunteers. "I don't think we are in a position yet to tell people you should be having antibiotics. No way," he added.

Gupta said he thought chlamydia was causing inflammation, which in turn caused blood clots.

The chlamydia was somehow crossing into the arteries, he added. Immune system cells could be the key.

"It's a lung infection but it's found in the coronary," he said. "It may be transported in the monocyte, the warrior, the white cell."

Activated monocytes produce a chemical on their surface known as tissue factor. Meant to be part of the healing process, it can help trigger blood clotting.

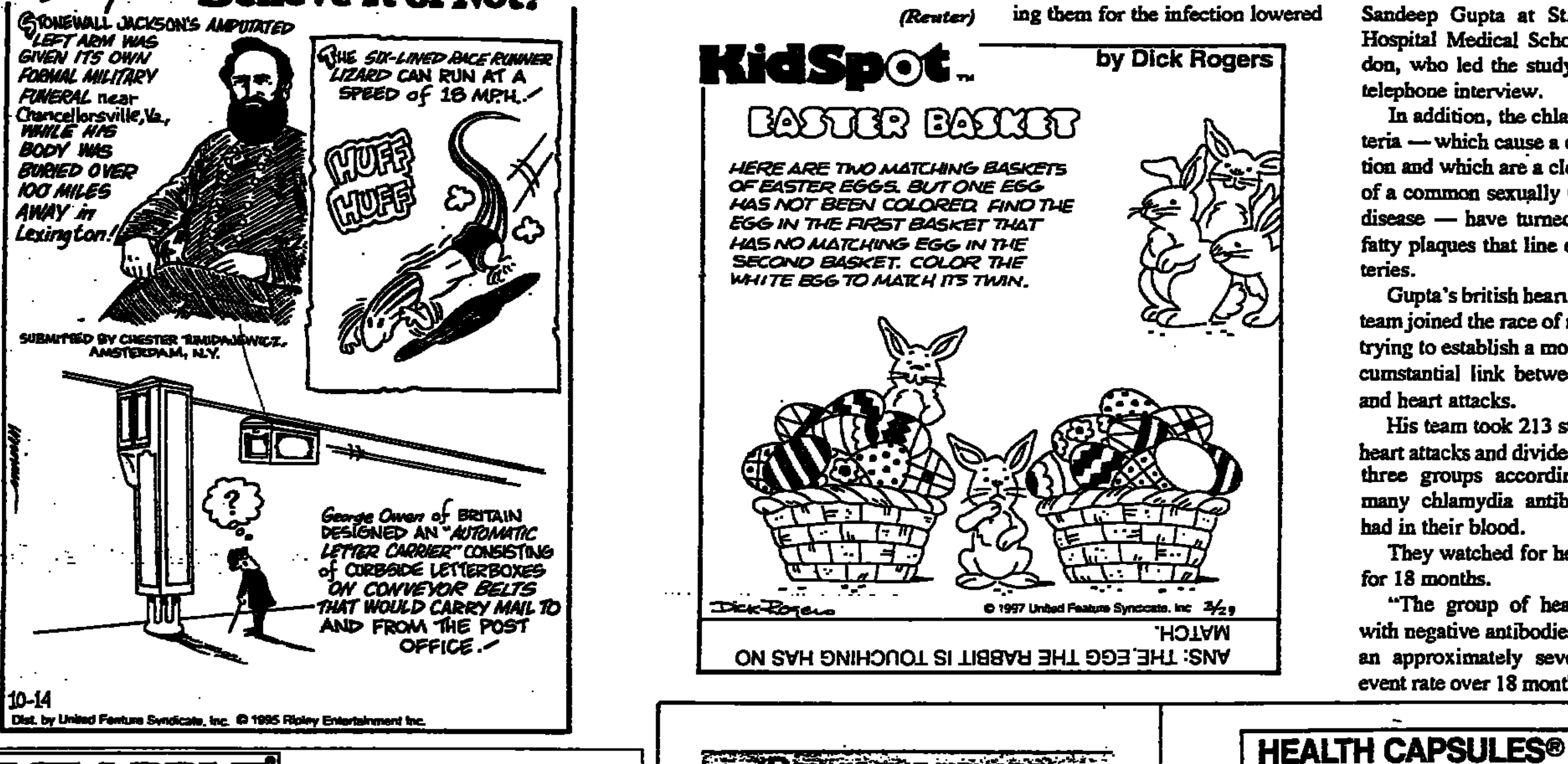
Chlamydia was a logical culprit because it was so insidious, Gupta added. It could lurk in the body a long time, causing few symptoms but a lot of damage.

"If you look at other chlamydia species, it's the commonest cause of infertility in the USA," he said. "It causes inflammation of the fallopian tubes and then it causes scarring."

With another chlamydial infection, trachoma, blindness is caused in a similar way by scarring eye tissue.

If antibiotics could help even a small percentage of people with heart disease, many lives would be saved by something as easy as taking a few tablets, Gupta said.

(Reuter)



Dist. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. © 1995 Ripley Entertainment Inc.

© 1997 United Feature Syndicate, Inc

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

SCRABBLE® is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. in the United States and Canada and elsewhere by J.W. Spear & Sons PLC. © 1997 Hasbro, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

RACK 1: T1 B3 R1 B3 I1 A1 F4

RACK 2: H4 T1 S1 E1 C3 K5 Y4 — 2nd Letter Double

RACK 3: I1 I1 O1 N1 G2 V4 C3 — Triple Word Score

RACK 4: O1 T1 T1 H4 B3 C3 L1

PAR SCORE 115-125

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

4-16-97 © 1997, United Feature Syndicate, Inc

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

© 1997, United Feature Syndicate, Inc

W4 A1 R1 M3 T1 H4 — RACK 1 = 14

F4 L1 O1 T1 A1 G2 E1 — RACK 2 = 61

J8 O1 Y4 I1 N1 G2 — RACK 3 = 25

N1 O1 U1 N1 A1 L1 — RACK 4 = 12

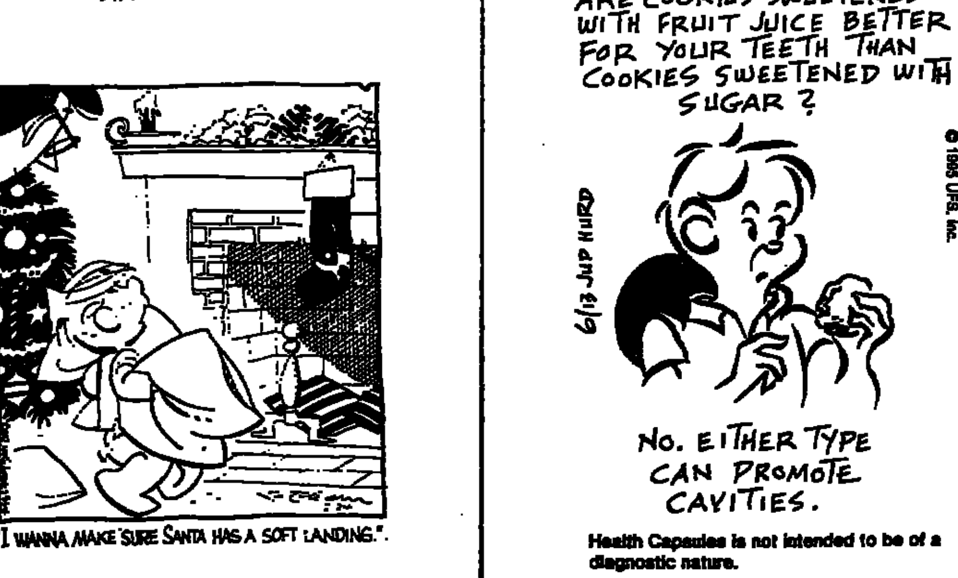
PAR SCORE 70-80 JUDD'S TOTAL 112

4-15-97

SCRABBLE® is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. in the United States and Canada and elsewhere by J W Spear & Sons PLC © 1997 Hasbro, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

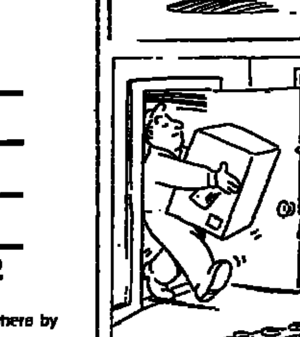


"I WANNA MAKE SURE SANTA HAS A SOFT LANDING."



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.












مكتبة امين الرعايا

THANK YOU FOR NOT SMOKING

Tehran Times Service

During America's cowboy days, American Indians lit tobacco leaves never thinking that one day the craze would spread throughout the world and would leave the atmosphere polluted and the lives of many endangered. After over two centuries of use, tobacco has at last been found to be defintely harmful to health and its use banned in many countries.

For years cigarette smoking was considered fashionable, more so when it accompanied actors and actresses on cinema. Watching films in movie theaters, spectators puffed cigarette after cigarette. But now many famous actors and actresses have either lost their lives because of smoking or regret having joined the craze in the first place. Some have come up with moving stories of how their lives have been wasted or their health endangered because of cigarettes, and their wish is that people who smoke would give up the habit before it is too late.

Children are like beautiful blossoms. Don't wither them with a puff of smoke.

Cigarette smoking has definitely been found to be the leading cause of cancer of the lungs and many other respiratory diseases. It leads to a host of other secondary diseases attacking the windpipe, bronchus, lips, mouth, throat, pancreas, esophagus, larynx, bladder and kidneys. However, notwithstanding widespread efforts to disseminate information linking various diseases to cigarette smoking, people who are already in the habit find it hard to lick and so its widespread disastrous effects continue to plague society.

Today, the campaign against smoking has become institutionalized. The U.S. Health Department requires U.S. tobacco companies to print a warning of the danger of cigarette smoking on every pack of cigarettes. A dramatic event in recent days is the admission of a leading tobacco company in the U.S., based on research that it sponsored, that tobacco smoke does have the element that is definitely linked to cancer of the lungs and that nicotine is addictive. Now tobacco companies are faced with dwindling financial returns because of the decreasing number of smokers. Others have even joined the queue of opponents of smoking that is getting longer with each passing day.

Statistics on the number of cigarette smokers reveal that some 2.5 billion are addicted worldwide, with an average of 20 billion cigarettes consumed per day. In Iran alone 30 percent of those above the age of 20 is addicted to cigarettes. Average daily cigarette consumption in Iran is about two cigarettes. In China and India, average daily cigarette consumption is 9 sticks and in the U.S. and European countries, 6 and 7 cigarettes per day respectively.

Let's have a world free from tobacco smoke. Say no to smoking!

Statistics on cigarette production in the country reveal that roughly one third is produced locally while the rest are smuggled from abroad. Health authorities also have revealed that the bulk of foreign cigarettes entering Iran is not standard and increases the risk of contracting diseases.

Smoking leaves one victim every 10 seconds. If the trend continues it could mean one victim in every 3 seconds for the next 30 to 40 years. In 1990 an estimated two million people in developed countries and one million in developing countries fell victim to cigarette smoking. The trend, however, shows that cigarette consumption has been decreasing in the U.S. and Canada in the last decade but has been increasing in East and Southeast Asian countries such as India and China.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are about 1,100 million smokers all over the world, 300 million of which live in developed countries (200 million men and 100 million women) while 800 million live in developing countries (700 million men and 100 million women).

In Iran, each year diseases linked to cigarette smoking claims 50,000 lives.

Another argument against smoking is that it endangers the life and health not only of the smoker but the rest of society as well, because of the burden imposed on the health care system of smokers who are sick or dying from its deleterious effects. The effect of "secondary smoke" on non-smokers has also been established medically such that many offices and public facilities have already banned smokers from their premises. It is estimated that about 460,000 to 470,000 non-smokers die from the effects of breathing "secondary smoke" each year in the U.S. and Russia. The fact shows that smoking has a far wider deterimental effect on society than is widely supposed.



Most fire accidents are to be blamed on cigarette butts.

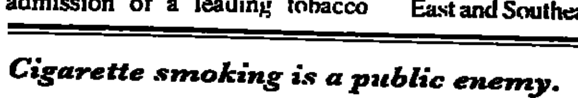
If the trend in cigarette smoking continues, deaths from the deadly habit in developing countries in 2020 or 2030 could exceed seven million. In developed countries this could reach three million.

Smoking has defintely been established as a hazard to man's health. Cigarette smoke contains thousands of harmful substances such as nicotine, arsenic, carbon monoxide and tar that damage the health.

Smoking also harms the teeth, eyes and immune system of the body. It has also been proved harmful and dangerous to children, especially during the period of development of the fetus in the mother's womb. Pregnant mothers who smoke are likely to give birth to underweight, stillborn or premature babies and abortion is a high risk.

Furthermore, according to research conducted on the field, cigarette smoking decreases the useful fat of the body (HDL) and is the main cause of a disease that is linked to such loss.

Cigarette smoking is a public enemy.





In addition to the many negative effects of smoking on the health, it has also destructive cultural and social effects. Cigarette smoking is the mother of dangerous drug addictions: Cigarette smoke pollutes the environment and endangers the health of society as a whole.

The ill effects of smoking from the economic point of view are also considerable. Large areas of land devoted to tobacco could very well have been devoted to growing the country's necessary foodstuffs. Trees felled or forests destroyed to give way to tobacco plantations have increased the occurrence of natural calamities such as floods and many fires that have razed houses, workshops, factories, forests and farms have been caused by the irresponsible disposal of cigarette butts.

Smoking in public places violates other people's rights.

Add to all of the above the heavy cost of treatment, absence from work and decline in work efficiency caused to members of society who are addicted to smoking and you will have a picture of the tremendous waste that results from the practice.

Each cigarette puff reduces a smoker's life.

Despite the global campaign being waged by the mass media and the World Health Organization to discourage people from smoking, the actual number of smokers has actually been found to increase by the day. Why?

The answers are diverse. A smoker says, "I forget my pains, suffering and other problems of life by smoking."

Seeking shelter from difficulties by smoking is like falling out of a frying pan into the fire.

The nicotine in cigarettes has the power of getting any smoker to become addicted. Today, there are about 6 million smokers in Iran. In 1373, according to a research conducted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Sciences, 20 percent of smokers 20 years old or older were addicted to cigarettes.

Why cigarettes? You can have health and joy without them.

If the number of addicted smokers belonging to the said age bracket comes up to 30 million, the total number of smokers of all age levels in Iran would come up to 6 million.

Further research reveals that some Rls. 10 billion per day and Rls. 3.5 trillion each year are spent on smoking. The amount (Rls. 10 billion), it is believed, could have been spent to meet many basic social needs such as medicine, schools and hospitals, housing, etc.

The need to educate people in order to convince them to drop the habit of smoking is a responsibility of every concerned member of society. The mass media, in this regard, shoulders a heavy responsibility because of the tools it has in its hands to shape public opinion. The same is true of the government. The importation of cigarettes would be effectively curbed if it were imposed steep import fees because of the fact that it serves no useful purpose. Another effective measure would be to discourage production altogether.

There are those who would argue that cigarette production is a source of government income and that banning it altogether would make users go underground. The answer is quite simple: there should be other ways of increasing governmental income and meeting financial needs than cigarette production. On the other hand, earnings from cigarette sales would just be wiped out by the ill effects it brings on society's health.

The side costs of smoking, which includes treatment of those suffering from tobacco-related diseases, as well as losses from reduced production, is estimated at Rls. 7 trillion. Therefore, any advantage seen in the production or sale of cigarettes is more than offset by a wider scale of disadvantages and harm that accrues to the economy and health of society.

We owe it to ourselves and to society to help smokers get rid of this dangerous habit by not allowing them to take for granted the dangers that smoking causes to their health. We should remind smokers that quitting smoking is as much for their own good and that to continue in the habit would expose them to all the ruinous consequences of life. If our colleague happens to be a smoker it should be our responsibility to warn him and not to let him have his way.

The existence of a healthy society is not an accident but a matter of choice.



Chronology of ETA Basque Separatist Violence

MADRID — Spanish town Councillor Miguel Angel Blanco's killing this weekend was the latest act in a campaign of violence by militant Basque separatists that has claimed some 800 lives.

Basque guerrillas started fighting for independence under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco and continued their struggle after democratic governments granted autonomy to their northern region.

Franco crushed the Basque region's first, eight-month-old home rule government in 1937 during the Spanish civil war and unleashed a wave of repression against the fiercely nationalistic Basques.

The separatist organization ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) was formed in 1959. Following is a chronology of main events related to Basque political violence:

1960

Small girl killed by bomb in train station in San Sebastian.

1968

ETA kills police chief.

1973

ETA kill Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco in Madrid bomb attack.

1975

September: Five suspected guerrillas, including two ETA members, shot by firing squad.

November: Franco dies.

1978

July: ETA kills army brigadier-general.

1979

January: ETA kills Madrid military governor.

May: ETA kills four army officers, including a general.

August: ETA ends campaign of summer bombings after killing seven in attacks at Madrid Airport and railway stations.

September: ETA kills military governor of Basque Province of Guipuzcoa.

November: Basques approve in referendum Madrid proposals for regional autonomy.

1980

February: ETA kills six policemen in ambush.

April: ETA kills businessman for failing to pay "revolutionary taxes".

1981

February: ETA kills chief engineer of nuclear plant.

March: ETA declares indefinite truce.

May: ETA wounds general head of royal household, kills aide.

1982

January: Police free kidnapped father of pop singer Julio Iglesias.

November: ETA kills Spain's top army field commander.

1983

October: ETA kills kidnapped army captain.

December: Basque businessman kidnapped and killed for failing to pay ETA "revolutionary taxes".

Anti-ETA Spanish death squads or antiterrorist liberation groups (GAL) claim first killing.

1984

January: France, in major policy shift, starts crackdown on Basque exiles. ETA kills former Madrid captain-general.



February: ETA kills guerrilla who accepted government leniency measures. ETA kills socialist senator.

June: France agrees to cooperate with Spain against ETA.

1985

January: Madrid and Basque government conclude pact including joint action against ETA.

March: ETA kills army colonel head of Basque police force.

June: ETA kills four, including army colonel, on day Spain signs accession to European Community.

July: ETA kills vice-admiral in charge of defense policy.

September: ETA Madrid car bomb kills American tourist, wounds 16 civil guards. GAL kill four Basque exiles in France.

1986

February: ETA kills vice-admiral, a descendant of Columbus.

April: ETA car bomb kills five civil guards in Madrid.

July: ETA car bomb kills 12 civil guards in Madrid.

August: ETA kills one of its former leaders who had accepted government leniency.

1987

June: Twenty-one shoppers die in car-bomb attack on Barcelona Supermarket Hipercor. ETA apologizes for "mistake".

December: ETA bomb attack on living quarters of Zaragoza civil guard barracks kills 11, including four children. Government declares contacts with ETA over.

1988

February: ETA kidnaps property Tycoon Emiliano Revilla.

October: Revilla released for $12 million ransom.

1989

January: ETA announces unilateral 15-day truce, later extended by three months.

March: After secret talks in Algiers with Spanish government envoys, ETA announces three-month extension of truce, then accuses Spain of going back on deal and calls it off.

1990

February: Top judge has hands blown off by parcel bomb.

September: Police arrest ETA number two in Biarritz.

December: ETA car bomb kills six policemen in Sabadell.

1991

May: Nine killed, 45 injured by bomb at Barracks in Barcelona.

June: Four killed, 32 injured, by parcel bomb in Seville.



1992

January: Former secretary of state shot dead in Valencia.

February: Five killed, including four soldiers, by car bomb in Madrid.

1993

June: Seven die in two car bombs in Madrid.

October: ETA releases businessman Julio Iglesias Zamora after 117 days in captivity.

1994

July: Three killed by car bomb in Madrid.

1995

January: Leading Basque opposition politician Gregorio Ordonez shot dead in San Sebastian.

April: Car bomb, aimed at opposition leader Jose Maria Aznar, injures 15.

December: Six killed by car bomb in Madrid.

1996 — Five killed in total.

January: ETA kidnaps prison officer Jose Antonio Ortega Lara.

February: Ex-constitutional court judge shot dead.

November: Basque businessman Cosme Delclaux kidnapped.

1997 - 10 killed (to July 13)

January: Army officer shot dead in Madrid. Bicycle vendor who helped police shot dead in San Sebastian.

February: Car bomb kills army base hairdresser. Supreme Court judge shot dead in Madrid. Herri Batasuna leader found hanged before court date. Car bomb kills court guard.

March: Prison psychologist shot dead in San Sebastian.

April: Police inspector shot dead in Bilbao.

May: Civil guardsman shot dead in Zierbana.

July: Businessman Cosme Delclaux released after 232 days in captivity. Police free prison worker Jose Antonio Ortega Lara after 532 days in captivity.

July 10: ETA kidnaps Ermua town councillor, Miguel Angel Blanco, and threatens to kill him in 48 hours if demands are not met.

July 12: ETA shoots Blanco in head. Taken to hospital in coma.

July 13: Blanco dies of injuries in hospital.

(Reuter)



Britain to Introduce PR for Euro-Elections

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair has given the go-ahead for Proportional Representation (PR) to be used for elections to the European Parliament in 1999, according to a newspaper report.

In a move that will delight the minority liberal democrats and electoral reform campaigners, Blair has put aside his personal scepticism about PR and authorized the introduction of legislation, the *Times* said.

It would be the first time voters in Mainland Britain, which uses a first-past-the-post voting system, use PR in a national election.

But Blair is making plain that his doubts remain about using PR for elections to the British Parliament and there is no prospect of change in the current system in the foreseeable future.

Blair and other cabinet opponents of PR, including Home Secretary Jack Straw and leader of the House of Commons Ann Taylor, have relented over the European elections, the newspaper said.

They believe these can be treated as an exception because voters are not electing a government but representatives in a cross-European Parliament.

(Reuter)

Moscow Will Not Oppose Baltic States Joining EU

MOSCOW — Russia said it would not oppose Estonia's entry into the European Union, despite its strong opposition to the Baltic states becoming members of NATO.

The European Commission paved the way for the entry of five Eastern European states, including Estonia, plus Cyprus into the EU, issuing a report proposing their acceptance.

"Russia would support the Baltic states joining the EU," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, visiting Moscow, will raise the question of EU and NATO membership for the Baltic states in a meeting with Russian counterpart Yevgeny Primakov.

Russia is opposed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's expansion into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union states.

At a summit of NATO leaders in Madrid earlier this month, the Atlantic Alliance invited Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join up.

The so-called agenda 2000 document on EU expansion approved by the commission will go before the European Parliament.

Agenda 2000 opens the way for negotiations to begin next year on the entry of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and the Mediterranean Island of Cyprus to the 15-member EU.

However, the prospective candidates are likely to have to wait until at least 2002 before being welcomed into the EU fold.

They will also have to undertake various reforms.

(AFP)

International Conference on Albania Set for July 31

ROME — *A conference of* countries and international organizations aiding Albania will be held July 31 in Rome, officials said here.

The meeting will review the situation in Albania in the wake of elections on June 29 and July 6 which were won by a socialist-led alliance.

Representatives of the new Albanian government and Franz Vranitzky, who oversaw the elections for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), will be asked to attend.

The meeting will help pave the way for a donor conference in October.

An estimated 1,800 people have died in violence which spread across Albania after anger at the collapse of pyramid finance schemes in February turned into an uprising against President Sali Berisha.

Violence has continued after the election.

(AFP)

هكذا من الأصل

New Round of Western Sahara Talks Convened in London

UNITED NATIONS - UN Envoy James Baker plans to hold a new round of negotiations on the disputed territory of Western Sahara this weekend in London, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

A UN spokesman said that Baker, a former US secretary of state, had invited representatives of the pro-independence Polisario Front and Morocco to the London talks on July 19 and 20.

Mauritanian and Algerian diplomats are invited as observers, he added.

The talks "will still focus on implementation of the settlement plan or such adjustments to it as the parties may agree," Eckhard said.

Both sides met in Lisbon last month for talks described by the United Nations as having gone "particularly well."

At that meeting, Baker presented the delegations, led by Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali and Polisario Front leader Mafoud Ali Beiba, with "converging notions" in a document.

Both Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario claim the mineral-rich former Spanish colony and have been vying for control of the sparsely populated territory for 23 years.

The issue remains whether a 1991 UN settlement plan which called for a referendum on self-determination could ever be implemented or whether adjustments can be agreed.

A UN-monitored ceasefire has been held in the territory since September 1991, but the main stumbling block has been determining who could vote in a referendum — a key factor that could affect the outcome of a plebiscite.

Eckhard said that Baker planned to continue his mission as long as the talks "hold out any promise of progress." (AFP)

UN Agency Says May Suspend Angolan Refugee Plan

LUANDA - The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Tuesday it may have to close some of its offices in Angola and suspend the repatriation of some 300,000 refugees because of inadequate donor support.

"Due to the lack of enthusiasm among donors we forsee having to close some of our offices in Angola. This means that our difficult task to promote repatriation could be suspended or significantly reduced," UNHCR regional director for southern africa Nicholas Bwakiri said in a statement.

The United Nations agency requested $38.2 million for the repatriation of Angolan refugees in February this year. But only $4.6 million had been received from donors by June. The UNHCR had made an additional $3 million available from existing repatriation funds.

Bwakiri blamed the donor reluctance on the slowness of the Angolan transition since the signing of the Lusaka peace protocol in November 1994.

"Significant progress has been made since the peace agreement. The slowness of the move towards peace, however, has caused donors to lose interest in the effort," he said.

"The return of refugees forms an essential part of the peace process. Our inability to organize repatriation could have unfortunate consequences on the entire peace process," he added.

Inside Angola the UNHCR works in nine areas and supports seven non-governmental agencies.

Some 93,000 Angolans have returned spontaneously to their country since 1995, when the UNHCR started planning their repatriation.

However, some 300,000 others remain in exile, most in neighboring countries. (Reuter)




Hundreds Executed in Burundi: Amnesty International

London - Hundreds of men, women and children have been "extrajudicially executed" during the process of setting up regroupment camps in Burundi, Amnesty International charged Tuesday.

The London-based Human rights Organization said hundreds of thousands of Hutus had been forced into the camps, where they were "forced to remain in appalling, life-threatening conditions."

The Tutsi-dominated government in the tiny central African country told the Hutu peasants that if they remained in the hills they would be linked to Hutu guerrillas fighting the mainly Tutsi army, and therefore legitimate military targets, Amnesty said in a report.

"Despite claims by the Burundi government to the contrary," it said, "the regroupment policy applies almost exclusively to the Hutu ethnic group" who make up 85 percent of Burundi's population of six million. Tutsis represent 14 percent, and the Pygmy Twa one percent.

Amnesty said that all the camps were overcrowded and insanitary, and that some were life-threatening.

"In some camps, hunger and disease are rampant," it said.

"The government claims that the camps are a temporary measure. However, there are strong indications that the camps are part of a long-term military strategy of forcible relocation of the Hutu ethnic group, carried out not for their own protection but to undermine support for Hutu rebel groups.

"Regroupment has effectively created military zones where the authorities legitimize violations of human rights, including the right to life.

"Amnesty international continues to receive almost daily reports of massacres, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrest and torture."

The organization called on the regime of Tutsi Army Major Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in a bloodless putsch almost exactly a year ago, to disband the camps and allow their inhabitants to return to their homes.

It said estimates of the number of people in the camps ranged between 350,000 and 500,000.

Amnesty estimated that during the civil war in Burundi, which started in October 1993 when soldiers assassinated the country's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, during a coup attempt, Tutsis and Hutus had so far massacred "as many as 200,000 defenceless civilians." (AFP)



Nigerian Prisons Crowded because Executions Are Too Slow: Official

LAGOS - Nigeria's prisons are overcrowded because criminals sentenced to death are not being executed fast enough, a senior Security official said here Tuesday.

The official, who demanded anonymity, said state military administrators, on religious or moral grounds, were failing to sign the death warrants of convicted criminals, so that they continued to congest the prisons.

Speaking at a two-day forum of the Nigerian guild of editors, the official did not say how many people were on death row.

A total of 22,675 suspects are in prison awaiting trial in Nigeria and a further 15,000 more are being held in police custody, according to official statistics released Tuesday.

The official said the government was considering introducing a parole system and the use of suspended sentences, tow measures which are not in the country's penal code.

On the problem of murderous campus secret cults, another security official said that authorities had identified a total of 1,440 members belonging to 32 cults in 42 universities and colleges.

The official described the activities of the cults as "barbaric, primitive and destructive," which the government could not allow to continue.

More than 40 students of the Lagos state University have been declared wanted by the police over suspected involvement in the recent murder of two students by cult members. (AFP)

UN Food Body Reports Rapid Response to Plea for North Korea



ROME - The World Food Program has received an exceptionally rapid response to its plea for assistance for starving children in North Korea, WFP executive director Catherine Bertini said Tuesday.

Bertini said that never before had an appeal been 75 percent met within a week, adding, "This shows how seriously the food crisis in North Korea is viewed."

The WFP had called for supplementary aid totalling $45.7 million in order to buy 13,000 tons of food, doubling the rations for 2.6 million North Korean children.

The main contributors were the United States with $16.2 million and the European Union with $12.5 million, Bertini said.

She stressed however that there was still a long way to go before North Korea's full food needs of a million tons before the next rice harvest in September and October.

Meanwhile a Food and Agriculture Organization expert, Ajay Markanday, who visited North Korea in May, warned that the food situation there was extremely critical.

The country's food reserves are now exhausted, and all supplies were coming from imports and international aid, Markanday said.

The daily food needs of the 22.7 million population are put at 10,000 tons of grain.

Markanday said urban dwellers were now suffering the worst, as those in the country were still able to find something to eat.

He also warned that after the catastrophic floods of 1995 and 1996 which destroyed most crops, the forthcoming harvest was not very promising because of lack of fertilizer and the poor condition of cultivable land. (AFP)

Romania Protesters Warn Against Ethnic Split

BUCHAREST - Hundreds of Romanian protesters led by leftist opposition politicians on Tuesday denounced an education law expanding instruction in minority languages, saying it would provoke an ethnic split.

About 500 demonstrators massed outside the Education Ministry, some with signs reading "No Ethnic Segregation" or "Down With the Pro-Hungarian Government". Many suggested graduates could leave school unable to speak Romanian, the sole official language in the country of 22 million.

At issue is a law approved last week by decree extending instruction in minority languages to all levels of education.

The legislation is aimed mainly at the 1.6 million-strong Hungarian minority, represented in the centrist government by two ministers. It also applies to 90,000 ethnic Germans, all that remain of an 800,000-strong post-war community.

"This law will build a parallel system within Romanian education," Adrian Nastase, a senior leader of the leftist Party of Social Democracy (PDSR) told a television interviewer.

Street protesters were more vocal.

"It is unacceptable for a Romanian citizen to be unable to speak Romanian," a woman in her forties screamed on television.

Under the decree, children are guaranteed education in their mother tongue in any locality requesting it, with even Romanian history and geography conducted in minority languages as well as examinations.

Minority education rights have been an issue for fierce debate even before the 1989 fall of communism and delayed the Romanian-Hungarian political treaty signed last year.

The university in the town of Cluj, at the heart of Transylvania, where most ethnic Hungarians live, agreed earlier this year with government approval to set up parallel Hungarian-language departments. (Reuter)

A Trip to Iran, Alone

Huseinov: Painting With Brush of Love

Part 10

By Husein Huseinov

Before sunrise our bus passed through the mountains, considered the gateway to the city and entered the valley on which Shiraz is built.

In the splendid morning air I found my way to the local offices of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. I was euphoric, and my only worry was how long the paperwork and the permits would take. I was secretly wishing that it would end and I would be free to roam the city. I had the thought passing my mind every now and then, am I really in this city, Shiraz? The city that all masters of word and the arts wish to visit? Am I here where the master of words, Sa'di, and the heavenly Hafez were born and reared and became eternal?

I am looking everywhere now so that I can see better the differences between Shiraz and Isfahan. With these thoughts I entered the office.

Here too I was received very cordially and warmly. The head of the office presented me with two relatively voluminous books about the contemporary arts and artists in Iran, for which I am very grateful and promised myself I will have a look at them later on in the evening. These two volumes are truly treasures to me since I have to admit I know precious little about the Iranian art scene.

Around noon I checked into a nice, but inexpensive motel and with my permits in hand I planned to go roam the city.

A rriving in the city, my first decision was to see the Persepolis. The ruins, I found out, are far from the city center. One has to change buses thrice to get there. Thank God, with the help of good people I was able to get there. I was sure the following day would be much better.

All in all I spent three days in the Persepolis. It was difficult to be working under the heat of a burning sun. Shiraz, it seemed to me, was warmer than Isfahan. I did eight sketches of the Persepolis altogether. I had all the inspiration there to do a good work and I think I did not fail myself.

Close to where I was working, a young lady—an artist in her own right—was also busy on her own. Every once in a while she would come over and have a look at my work and my method. In one of those visits she asked me something which I didn't understand.

Thinking she may have been a bother, she kept her silence.

But as time passed, she resumed her conversation not with me but with the others who happened to be there—explaining my method, movements, and so on. This young lady seemed to understand all my moves, like a master or a professor teaching others, as though nothing was unexpected or strange in the way she spoke. Though I barely speak Farsi, I gathered she was telling her listeners that I was an Impressionist painter. I must confess to her accuracy of judgment to some extent. My work is somewhat impressionist, but I must confess I am not an impressionist by calling.

Having finished my work, I approached this young lady where she was sitting. She got up as a way of showing respect. What fascinated me in this woman was the very fabric of her personality—cultured and refined. She was elegant in the way she moved and showed kindness and politeness to people whom she met from all walks of life.

I could see that she desired to hear what my comments were of her work and, I must say, I was just as eager to tell her how I felt about them. But I just couldn't find the right language.

It seemed to me she shared my pains, laughed when I said something funny, but uttered nothing much. One thing I could say: I liked her work. Allow me to repeat that: I truly admired her work. I had acquired a visual-understanding of my guides and they all knew that I couldn't speak anything but the Turkish language. I must say that Shirazis seem to be less curious than Isfahanis.

I remembered the day was Friday, a public holiday which interfered a bit with my normal schedule of events. I put aside the work I had been doing and headed for my hotel.

'Under the High Arch of Sky,' Juxtaposition of Play and Ta'zieh

Tehran Times Service

Written by Hamid Reza Soheili

Directed by Seyed Azim Mousavi

Cast: Mahmoud Rasekhfar, Homan Mir Ma'navi, ...

Compeer Choral Singers: Hossein Zolfeghari, Mostafa Bluecut, Esmail Mohammadi, Hekmat Goli, ...

Synopsis

A father who has lost his son in the war, cannot accept his son's death, thus goes to war fronts in search of his son's corpse. He dreams Karbala Uprising and martyrdom of Ali Akbar, Imam Hussein's (AS) son. He then believes his son's martyrdom.

Critique

Azim Mousavi has had Ta'zieh (Persian Passion Play) or Ta'zieh-based performances in the past. He is well-known and mostly an expert in this field.

This time, upon an order by the Department General for Ceremonies and Memorials Affairs affiliated to Research Deputy of Martyrs Foundation, he analyzes the emotional ups and downs of a martyr's father within a Ta'zieh.



Mahmoud Rasekhfar, casting the martyr's father, is successful in his presentation of the inner feelings of a martyr's father. In his expression and in his monologs, however, he proves to be weak. His carelessness in memorizing the play leads to occasional stammers.

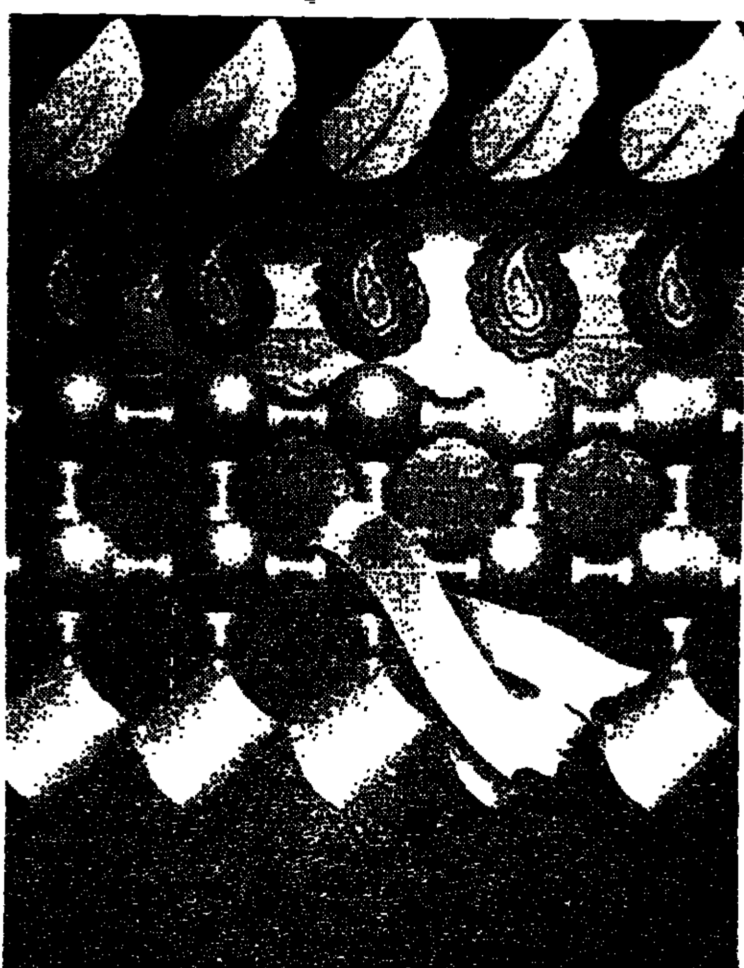
Stage-setting, most fit for shadow plays, is beautiful and effective, due to color lighting rigs. The only defect appears in the martyr's father's room, which is bare and devoid of visual attractions.

Selection and application of various classes of music (local, native Iranian, classic, and modern Western) say the director has ample familiarity with the category of music. In some parts, however, the music overshadows the play.

The music of Ta'zieh, performed live amid the struggles on the scene, is another good point about this play.

The most important Ta'zieh plays went on stage by Azim Mousavi are: Ta'zieh of Imam Hussein (AS) in Ansar al-Hussein (1980), We Are Not From Kufa in Vahdat Hall (1981), I've Fought From the Dawn Till Now in Azad Hall (1982), Ashura Ta'zieh in Mulavi Hall (1983), Immigration of Mokhtar in Teatre Shahr (1983), Muslim ibn Aqil in Abulfazl Society (1984), The Great Mourning in Mulavi Hall (1985), six Ta'zieh parties in Aftab TV Channel in Los Angeles (1992), Horr and Abbas in Bahman *Farhangsara* (1991), Bazar-Sham in Azadi Stadium (1993), and Yousef Karbobala in Andisheh Hall (1995).

13th Vahdat Film and Photo Festival Opens Tomorrow



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The 13th Vahdat Film and Photo Festival will start work tomorrow in Tabriz, announced Mr. Zarifmanesh, deputy head of Mostaz'afan va Janbazan Foundation at a press conference yesterday.

"The 13th festival will be held in three divisions of film, photo and screenplay and will last until July 23."

The festival has so far received 237 films, 21 of which are shot by the war handicapped. Also 207 photos out of 896 photos sent to the festival are taken by the war disabled. Likewise 36 screenplays out of 467 ones are written by the war handicapped.

Noting that the presence of the war disabled in the 13th festival is very 'outstanding' Mr. Zarifmanesh said "the objective behind organizing Vahdat festivals is to create new opportunities for the war disabled."

According to the deputy, screening feature films for the families of the war disabled, ex-POWs and martyrs, holding round tables with the artists, holding gatherings for film criticism, and photography training workshops are among the side programs of the festival.

Despite the previous years, the awards in the 13th festival are not material; rather the top awards consist tickets to Mecca and Syria.

Daily Food for Thought

On Appearance

Great men are seldom over-scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire.

CHARLES DICKENS

Pickwick Papers

Palestinian Youths, Manifestation of Holy Resistance

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — What you have before you is the story of holy resistance of Palestinian youths. It is the story of those young men inhabited in Syria and South Lebanon refugee camps, the story of those who never bow down before the Zionists and other domineering powers.

The article reflects heinous crimes committed by Zionist aggressors and their atrocity towards innocent people of Palestine.

Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon and Syria reflect the reality of Palestinians' social life, the people who are the



standard-bearers of devotion, sacrifice, and resistance.

In these camps, one can witness how the Palestinians particularly the youths, have been badly deprived of peace, security, comfort, normal life and freedom.

Their painful life has been always accompanied with tension and anxiety. Their tiny shoulders have already borne heavy burdens; they have witnessed the death of their family members under the barbaric torture of Zionist agents and they witnessed how the criminal Zionists occupied their lands by force.

Today the international Zionism and its paymaster, the United States, through their powerful propagation media claim that they are supporters of lasting peace in the world.

The U.S. and Zionists leave no stone unturned to persuade the world that the real peace is the U.S.-sponsored peace. They

(Contd on Pg. 14)





International Spectrum — A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. JULY 17, 1997; TIR 26, 1376; RABIUL-AWAL 11, 1418

Iran Spectrum — A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, July 8

NATO Moves Toward Agreement on Enlargement

NATO leaders meeting at a summit moved toward a historic agreement on admitting former Soviet bloc enemies as members of the alliance.

UN Gets Allegations Against Ranariddh

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh was accused of entering into talks with banned Khmer Rouge guerrillas which would have brought "catastrophe" to Cambodia.

Sri Lankan Rebels Hijack Ship With 38 N.Koreans Abroad

Tamil Tiger rebels hijacked a North Korean cargo ship off northern Sri Lanka and abducted the 38-member crew as fighting in the country killed 25 people, officials said.

Wednesday, July 9

NATO Leaders Create Far-Reaching Security Network



NATO leaders took another major step aimed at closing the divide between East and West inaugurating a new Security Council of nations spanning North America, Europe and former Soviet Asia.

Cambodia Royals Allowed to Flee as Airport Reopens

Members of Cambodia's royal family and leading party officials took a window of opportunity to flee as a gap in the fighting allowed a resumption of some commercial flights from the tense capital.

One More Ciller Aide Resigns in Turkey

A former close aide to conservative politician Tansu Ciller defected from her True Path Party to Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz' rival bloc, the Anatolia news agency said

Thursday, July 10

Shabazz Grandson Pleads Guilty to Fire

Twelve-year-old Malcolm Shabazz pleaded guilty onto charges of setting the fire that killed his grandmother Betty Shabazz, widow of slain black civil rights leader Malcolm X.

59 Dead in Venezuelan Quake

A powerful earthquake in eastern Venezuela's tourist region killed at least 59 people and injured another 322, trapping children in the ruins of their collapsed schools, officials said.

Friday, July 11

Palestinian Youths and Israeli Soldiers Clash



Dozens of Palestinian Youths took to the streets of Al-Khalil burning Israeli flags and hurling stones and Molotov Cocktails at Israeli soldiers, witnesses said.

At Least 74 Dead in Hotel Fire at Beach Resort

A fire raged through a 17-story hotel in the beach resort city of Pattaya, Thailand, killing at least 74 people, including eight Europeans, police said.

Ousted Cambodian Premier Seeks U.S. Support

Ousted Cambodian first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh takes his case to Washington after demanding UN action to reverse a "coup d'etat" by his rival.

Saturday, July 12

Bomb Thrown at Israeli Army in Al-Khalil

A bomb was thrown at Israeli soldiers in the flash-point West Bank town of Al-Khalil overnight without causing casualties, military sources said.

Yilmaz Wins Confidence Vote



Turkey's Parliament erupted in a brawl as deputies passed a vote of confidence in Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, bringing the final curtain down on the country's first Islamist government.

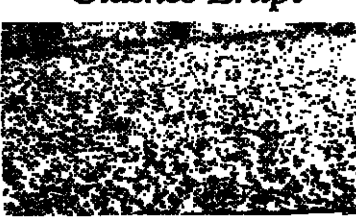
Sunday, July 13

Israel Warns Palestinians Amid New Violence



Israel threatened to get tough with the Palestinian population of Al-Khalil in a bid to quell five weeks of unrest, as violence flared again in the heart of the West Bank city.

Spanish Politician Shot by ETA Dies, Clashes Erupt



A young Spanish politician kidnapped and shot by ETA Basque guerrillas died of his wounds, sparking a violent backlash against the radical separatist group and international condemnation.

Monday, July 15

Explosion Outside OSCE, UN Office in Serb Town



A bomb blast destroyed an OSCE truck but caused no casualties outside offices of international monitors in Serb-controlled Bosnia, a UN official said.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, July 8

President Inaugurates Tank Manufacturing Plant



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurating a tank manufacturing plant said "Today should be considered as a historical day for the country and its armed forces."

Velayati Confers With Tunisian PM

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with Tunisian Premier Hamed Karoui in Tunis. The two officials explored ways of expanding Tehran-Tunis cooperation.

First Museum of Coins and Currency Opens

Iran's First Vice President, Hassan Habibi, opened the First Museum of Coin and Currency.

Wednesday, July 9

President Appreciates Services of Iranian Workers



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appreciated the services rendered by Iranian workers during the eight years of Sacred Defense (1980-1988) and in the course of the reconstruction era.

Unaccounted for Water Seminar Ends

The second and last day of First National Seminar on Unaccounted For Water (UFW), was mainly allocated to technical and scientific lectures and questions and answers.

Maneuver Launched in Torbat-e Jam Region

Iran's Army launched maneuvers in Torbat-e Jam, in northeastern Province of Khorasan, in commemoration of the Tir 7 martyrs.

Thursday, July 10

President Lauds Role of Iranian Businessmen



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here on Thursday that business unions and the Islamic associations of businessmen throughout the country had played an important role in the struggle of people against the former monarchial regime in Iran.

Tremor Jolts Qouchan

An earthquake measuring three degrees on the open-ended richter scale hit the city of Qouchan in this northeastern province at 10:59 hours local time.

Friday, July 11

Latest Zionist Crime, Sign of Wickedness, Impudence



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani condemned the recent Zionists' insulting of Prophet Mohammad (S) and the Holy Qoran and said it was a new step on the way of wickedness and impudence.

Saturday, July 12

Zoroastrians Association Condemns Zionists' Insult to Islam

In a statement issued Tehran's Association of Zoroastrians denounced the Zionists' sacrilegious act insulting the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S).

$90 Million German Loan to Renovate Suroush Oil Fields

A German bank is to place a loan of $90 million at the disposal of Iran to develop and renovate the Suroush oil field.

Sunday, July 13

10th Joint Meeting on Iran-Pakistan Border Security Held

The tenth joint meeting on Iran-Pakistan border security was held in Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

Social Security Indispensable in Modern Societies



Appreciating the precious services of the country's Social Security Organization, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always been concerned with the question of social security and supporting vulnerable strata.

Iran-Pakistan Trade Exchanges Need Boost

Pakistan's Finance Minister, Sartaj Azizi, announced that trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan lags behind compared to the progress in political relations between the two countries.

Monday, July 15

Iran's Cooperation With Africa Prompted by Philanthropic Motives

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the participants in the third seminar on Africa title 'Exploring Practical Ways of Development and Cooperation'. The president stressed on cooperation with African countries through philanthropic motives.

Bangladesh Finalize Investment Agreement

An investment agreement was finalized between Tehran and Dhaka during the visit to Iran of Bangladeshi high ranking delegation headed by that country's Industry Deputy Minister Akhtar Ali.

Top 20 Foods

To Make You Look Younger and Stay Healthy!

[illegible] conflicting information about this food being good for you and that food being bad, there's a temptation to ignore it all and eat what [illegible] include these 20 essentials...

1 Broccoli

A brilliant source of vitamin C-and as a bonus you get a cocktail of extra vitamin E and beta-carotene, plus iron, folic acid, potassium and calcium. Broccoli (like cabbage) also contains phytochemicals that are thought to have anti-cancer properties.

* Single daily portion: 1 cup-approx 225 g (8 oz)-of broccoli.

2 Apples

A good source of vitamin E, plus some vitamin C, high fiber and lots of pectin, which helps lower cholesterol.

* Single daily portion: an apple a day, of course.

3 Spinach

Despite what Popeye thought, it's more than just a great source of iron-being also rich in vitamins C and E, beta-carotene, calcium and folic acid.

* Single daily portion: 1 large cup-approx 280 g (10 oz)-of chopped, raw spinach.

4 Red and Yellow peppers

The big surprise is that they contain up to four times as much vitamin C as an orange, plus beta-carotene, iron potassium and lots of fiber. They look and taste great, too. Best served in a salad, or lightly stir-fried. Adds colour and brightness to any dish.

* Single daily portion: one whole, raw red or yellow pepper (or half of each).

5 Mixed nuts

A variety of unsalted nuts and seeds-try sunflower and pumpkin seeds with walnuts, almonds, pine, Brazil or hazel nuts-are the best snack food, and an excellent source of protein, B-group vitamins, potassium, zinc, magnesium, selenium and iron.

* Single daily portion: one handful-about 50 g (2 oz).

6 Carrots

Full of beta-carotene (which converts to vitamin A), potassium, calcium and fiber. Thought to help reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes and some cancers.

* Single daily portion: two raw carrots (or about four lightly steamed carrots).

7 Mango or papaya

The sweetest-tasting, most heavenly antioxidants, crammed with beta-carotene, plus vitamins C and A.

* Single daily portion: 1/2 cup-about 125 g (4 oz)-of diced fruit.

8 Citrus fruits

Oranges and lemons (satsumas, grapefruit and limes, too) are rich in vitamin C, high in fiber and contain powerful antioxidants which can help the body fight everything from the common cold to some cancers.

* Single daily portion: one whole fresh orange or grapefruit, or four satsumas, or 300 ml (1/2 pt) of freshly squeezed juice.

9 Sweet potato

Rich in vitamins C and E, beta-carotene, potassium, iron and fiber, it may help prevent cancer.

* Single daily portion: one medium-sized baked sweet potato.

The latest thought on nutrition show that most of us aren't eating nearly as well as we think we are. That could be true even if you take a vitamin supplement providing the Recommended Daily Requirement of nutrients of — the list that you've seen for years on the back of vitamin bottles and cereal packs; even if you've cut down on meat and have fruit for your pudding; even if you avoid chocolate and junk food; and, yes, even if you prepare meals yourselves rather than eat convenience foods.

Why? Well, it seems the very basis of what we call a healthy diet is now outdated. The Recommended Daily Requirements were designed to give adequate amounts of essential nutrients to stop deficiencies like rickets — advice which was vital after World War II when the guidelines were first drawn up. Fifty years on, research into diet and health has revealed that 'adequate' levels of nutrients are quite different from 'optimum' levels.

And it seems that not all fruit and vegetables are created equal. Nutritionists have discovered that some are rich in antioxidants — vitamins C, E and beta-carotene which, if eaten in amounts far above the recommended guidelines, can boost the immune system, help protect the body from illness like cancers, Alzheimer's and heart diseases, and may even help slow down the ageing process itself.

Researchers have also found that eating a fiber-rich diet can reduce the risk of bowel and abdominal cancers, and that the more calcium we eat in the first half of our lives, the less likely we are to get osteoporosis, or brittle bones, in the second.

It has even been discovered that a lot of the produce we eat today is vitamin-deficient compared to the locally grown food we ate 50 years ago. This is due to intensive farming, just in season, the long shelf-life that's necessary for suppliers to meet demand, and the huge increase in convenience or ready-prepared meals.

Although researchers don't yet know what the new optimum levels of these vital nutrients are, they do know that the sooner we start eating them the longer and healthier our lives will be.

To help you consume more of them in the meantime, it is now recommended that every man, woman, and child has at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day — and even for an adult, that's not easy.

Here, then to ensure you make every bite count, are the 20 top foods that you should eat as often as possible, with guidelines on how much a daily 'portion' should be. And remember, fresh and raw is best, since storing or cooking fruit and vegetables reduce the vitamin content even further.

10 Strawberries

Packed with vitamin C, potassium and fiber. Strawberries are now shown to reduce high blood pressure and help lower cholesterol levels.

* Single daily portion: 1/2 cup about 125 g (4 oz)-of berries.

11 Bananas

The ultimate fast food (ready-to-eat, in their own biodegradable wrapper) and the best source of potassium.

Bananas are also rich in zinc, iron, folic acid and fiber, and contain mood-lifting amino acids.

* Single daily portion: one whole banana.

12 Pumpkin

The glorious golden colour shows they're packed full of beta-carotene. The seeds, lightly toasted in the oven, make a snack high in protein, B-group vitamins, zinc, iron and calcium.

* Single daily portion: 1 cup-about 225 g (8 oz)-of steamed or baked pumpkin.

13 Cantaloup melon

Rich in vitamin C and A and full of fiber, yellow-fleshed melons may protect against abdominal cancer.

* Single daily portion: 1/2 cup-about 125 g (4 oz)-diced melon.

HIGHFIBERS

EAT ONE OF THESE EACH DAY

14 Low-fat plain yoghurt

One of the best sources of calcium, with less lactose than milk so it's easier to digest. And if you get a live yoghurt (containing *Lactobacillus Bulgaricus*) it will increase the uptake of all nutrients in the gut.

* Single daily portion: two 125 g (4 oz) pots of yoghurt.



15 Low-fat cottage cheese

An excellent source of protein and calcium.

* Single daily portion: approx 225 g (8 oz) of cottage cheese.

(to be Contd next Thursday)

Entertaining in Style

Mocha Eclairs

You will need...	¼ pint water 2 oz. butter 2½ oz. plain flour pinch salt 2 eggs
Preparation time 20 minutes	For the filling and icing: ¾ pint double dairy cream 1-2 oz. castor sugar few drops vanilla essence
Cooking time 25-35 minutes	2 oz. plain chocolate 2 tablespoons water 1 teaspoon instant coffee powder 5 oz. icing sugar, sieved
Oven setting 400°F; Gas mark 6	

Put water and butter into a saucepan and bring slowly to the boil. Remove from heat and beat in flour, sieved with salt, to form a ball which leaves the sides of the pan clean. If necessary, return to a gentle heat. Allow mixture to cool to blood heat, then beat in eggs one at a time.

Put pastry into a piping bag with 1/2-inch plain nozzle and pipe 143-inch lengths on greased baking trays. Bake in a moderately hot oven for 25-35 minuets or until crisp and golden. Remove carefully from trays and cool on rack.

Lightly whip cream and add sugar and vanilla essence. Make a slit down the side of each eclair and fill with cream. Melt chocolate in a basin over a pan of hot water. Remove from heat and beat in water, then coffee powder and gradually beat in icing sugar. Spread on top of eclairs with a palette knife and allow to set.

QUICK TIP

For a dessert, fill small choux pastry buns with spoonfuls of double dairy cream or ice cream, make a chocolate sauce and pour over buns.

PUZZLE

FOREIGN FOODS

S	A	E	S	S	I	A	B	A	L	L	I	U	O	B
U	R	I	E	U	A	L	L	I	T	R	O	T	Z	C
S	Y	R	R	U	C	I	E	R	I	A	K	J	T	H
H	E	E	I	S	O	I	N	I	E	M	O	L	A	O
I	S	W	H	C	I	E	U	S	A	I	F	S	M	P
E	I	V	A	C	I	D	E	H	W	K	T	H	R	S
L	W	T	I	K	I	P	W	S	I	A	A	I	A	U
O	A	D	I	D	E	U	S	T	W	Y	S	S	Y	E
M	N	L	A	R	T	E	Q	E	O	I	E	H	A	Y
A	I	Q	C	E	Z	I	E	W	L	K	W	K	L	E
C	W	M	I	T	V	W	R	O	D	U	E	E	A	L
A	U	P	N	F	A	L	I	P	U	S	W	B	B	A
U	W	I	E	A	U	V	D	P	I	E	A	A	M	M
G	L	A	A	K	A	S	S	U	O	M	W	B	A	A
B	I	B	O	R	S	C	H	T	B	I	E	U	J	T

AKEE
BORSCHT
BLINTZES
BOUILLABAISSE
CHOP SUEY
CREPES
CURRY
GUACAMOLE
IRISH STEW
JAMBALAYA
KOFTAS
LO MEIN
MATZO
MOUSSAKA
PILAF
POI
QUICHE
RAVIOLI
SHISH KEBAB
SUKIYAKI
SUSHI
TACO
TAMALE
TORTILLA

Answer to Last Week's PUZZLE



Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *Denmark*

Sales of the Century

Boats white as seagulls, sails billowing in the wind, take to the water near Copenhagen. This is the world championship for yachts in the H-boat class—many of which have been put into the water by a Danish company.



The 806 yacht displays the world-renown Danish skill in shipbuilding.

as a subcontractor working for some of the largest Danish boatyards, but swiftly acquired the license giving it the sole rights for worldwide production of the 806. This is now the main yacht OL produces and it has in turn found subcontractors of its own.

The hulls and decks are moulded by Farso Glasfiber's specialist yard near the Limfjord in Jutland, and then the boats are moved to a specialist fitter, Aars Yacht, 15 km away. Here the extras, such as teak wood decks and trimmings, the keel and rudder, and all the deck fittings, are added. "Our boats are custom made, with up to 150 different specifications, and I check each one exhaustively myself," says Larsen.

Exports have been built into OL's strategy right from the beginning. Germany is a particularly busy market, along with Austria and Switzerland. The company has a network of eight overseas dealers.

Danish H-boats set for the world championship competition in Copenhagen.

Sales is not always an easy task. "Sometimes," admits Larsen, "it can be the most creative part of the

OL Boats, based a stone's throw from the Baltic in Solrod south of the Danish capital, is one of a number of companies which has been carrying forward the long Danish tradition of boat building by turning out fast racing yachts made of fibreglass and other modern materials.

His own love of sailing led Arne Larsen to establish the company back in 1973, soon after he had completed his training as a technical engineer. Since then, OL Boats has established an excellent reputation as a builder of boats suited to a combination of racing and recreational use.

The H-boat and the other main yacht in which OL specializes—th 806 international class—are highly workable, relatively affordable boats with a wide popular appeal. Larsen started out job. We are certainly below our peak of 80-100 boats a year at the moment. The Danish skills in sailing were amply illustrated at the 1996 Olympic games, when the team scooped a gold medeal, but there is tough competition from other sports, such as golf."

"Match racing is extremely time-consuming," he points out. "There is all the preparation of the boats, and the crew also needs to spend a lot of time training together. Nowadays, that time and planning can be hard to find."

OL Boats, however, is weathering the storm nicely, turning in a profit in excess of DKK 500,000 a year. "I believe that the 806, in particular, is an unsurpassable yacht which will outlive most of the competition," says Larsen. "Many boats are only in fashion for two or three years; I think ours will still be made in 50 years' time." (Courtesy of *Denmark Review* 4/96)

Travelogue

Beautiful Istanbul

Part III (conclusion)

TOPKAPI PALACE

The oldest and the largest of the remaining palaces in the world is the Topkapi Palace, a museum since 1924. The palace is located where the Acropolis of Byzantium once stood on the peninsula overlooking the Golden Horn, the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara. The palace complex is 700,000 sq mt in area, surrounded by five kilometers of walls.

The Topkapi Palace is the second palace built by the Turks in Istanbul. After young Sultan Mehmet II conquered the city in 1453 he had his first palace built at the site where the Istanbul University stands today. Soon afterward he ordered a new palace and in 1479, after 14 years of work, the place was ready for occupancy.

The palace is typical of Turkish palaces. The distinctive element of its plan is a series of open courtyards with trees in all of them to provide shade. All the courtyards are for different functions and are connected with one another by monumental doors. Functional buildings are arranged at the sides of the courtyards.

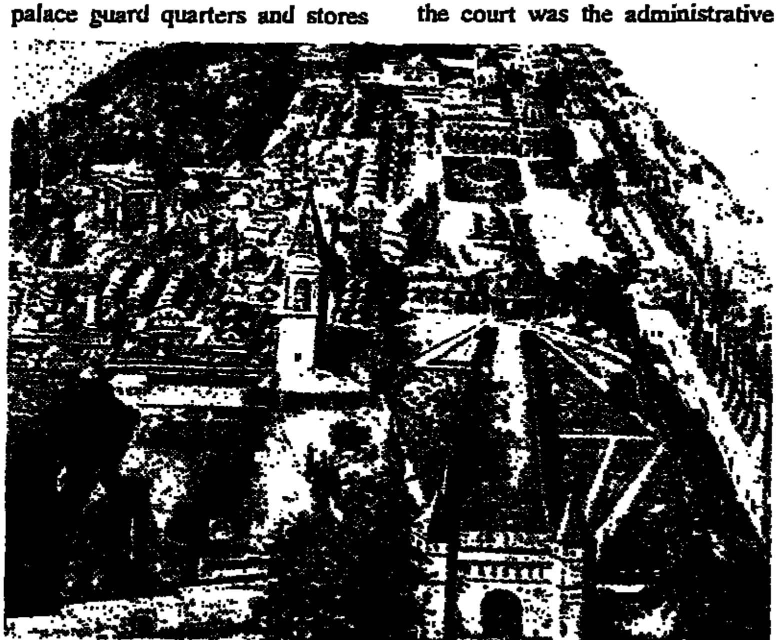
In 1853 when the new and ostentatious Dolmabahce Palace was completed, the Topkapi Palace lost its status as the official palace and fell into oblivion. It was only after the Republic was founded that the Topkapi Palace was recalled, and cared for. The repair work that went on for more than 50 years finally restored the Topkapi Palace to its original inconspicious beauty. Today it is used as a museum to exhibit works of art and many priceless artifacts, a museum with few rivals anywhere.

The functions of the Topkapi Palace while it was used as the official palace of the Ottoman sultans were quite different from those of most other palaces. Although it was primarily the residence of the incumbent sultan, it also served as the headquarters of the government where the cabinet of ministers met. It also housed the state mint and archives, as well as the highest institution of education of the realm, the university of the sultan and the state. In other words, the palace was virtually the heart, the brain, the very center of the Ottoman Empire. It was long after the construction of the palace that the Harem quarters were added to it. The Ottoman Empire was the largest and longest-lived of the 16 sovereign empires the Turks founded at various times. The giant empire that lasted for 622 years kept many countries by the shores of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea under its benevolent reign, merging many peoples of different races and religions.

Life within the Topkapi Palace started at dawn and continued throughout the day with ceremony and strict rules of protocol governing every possible situation and event. Everybody was obliged to abide by the customs and tradition of the palace that had developed over centuries. Even during the decline of the Ottoman Empire such rules never slackened. The protocol rules of the Western world were highly influenced by those dominant in the Topkapi Palace.

THE FIRST COURT

The first and outermost court of the Topkapi Palace is entered through the Bab-i Humayun (Imperial Gate). The monumental fountain outside the gate is a previous example of 18th century Turkish art. Surrounding the first court are the palace bakery, mint, palace guard quarters and stores for firewood. At the terraces below were the vegetable gardens that supplied the palace. Immediately upon entering the court, one sees the Aya Irini—a Byzantine church-turned-museum dating back to the 6th century.



A bird's-eye view of Topkapi Palace.

THE SECOND COURT

The actual entrance to the Topkapi Palace Museum is the second gate called Bab-i Selam (Gate of Salutation), through which one enters the second court that houses the administrative functions of the state. To this court, where only the sultan could enter on horseback, citizens in pursuit of some official matter and representatives of the Janissaries on paydays would be admitted. Historians have noted that during certain state ceremonies held here, which could be attended by as many as five or even ten thousand people, an absolute silence prevailed. For ceremonies the sultan himself would attend, the imperial throne would be placed in front of the gate at the other end of the court and all those present would stand facing him with their hands tied in front of them in a gesture of reverence. To the left of the court was the administrative section where the cabinet would meet. The only tower in the palace grounds is called the Tower of Justice because justice in the name of the state was dispensed from these quarters. The tower could be used to watch the whole city and the port, and the only entrance to it is through the Harem.

THE HAREM

The Harem section of the Topkapi Palace is made up of about 400 rooms scattered around small inner courts. Throughout the history of the palace, the Harem quarters underwent alterations continuously. It was the private part of the sultan's residence where his mother, brothers and sisters, wives, children and other members of the family, as well as the servants and eunuchs lived. Throughout the centuries, many stories have been told about these private quarters of the palace, entrance to which was strictly prohibited for outsiders. However, some of these must be regarded as myth, and the information backed by evidence points to a way of life in the Harem not as eccentric as people have been led to believe, but nevertheless interesting.

THE THIRD COURT

The entrance to the third court, the private court of the sultans, is through a gate called Babu's-sa'ade (Gate of Felicity). Nobody without special permission could pass through that gate, and those with permission were admitted, only in the company of white eunuchs, to the sultan's private court. Surrounding the court were the Palace University, the throne chamber, the sultan's treasury and the sanctuary of Holy Islamic relics. The sultan would meet the ambassadors of foreign countries and the high officials of his government in the throne chamber that is located directly opposite the gate to the court. The servants to the throne chamber were especially picked from deafmutes for obvious security reasons.

THE TREASURY

The Treasury section of the Topkapi Palace Museum is the richest collection of its kind in the world. All the pieces exhibited in the four halls are authentic originals. Masterpieces of Turkish craftsmen from different centuries and priceless creations from the Far East, India and Europe fascinate visitors. In each of the four rooms there is an imperial throne used in a different period of the empire. Ceremonial attire and accessoires, weaponry, narghiles, Turkish coffee cups and other vessels adorned with gold and previous stones are the main items in the first room. The second room, known as the "emerald room," houses aigrettes, pendentives, and hangers decorated with emeralds and other previous stones. Huge uncut emeralds weighing a few kilograms each and the Topkapi dagger with four large emeralds on the handle (the one on top concealing a watch) and embellished in diamonds that has become the symbol of the palace may be seen in this room. In the third room, enamelled pieces, medals and decorations given to the Sultans by foreign countries, the twin solid god candelabrums each weighing 48 kg, and the most renowned throne in the palace—the golden throne—used in the coronation of the sultans are displayed. Connecting the third and fourth rooms is a balcony which offers a magnificent view of the entrance of the Bosphorus and the Asiatic coast. The fourth room contains the grand throne of Turko-Indian origin and many pieces adorned with precious stones which fascinate every visitor.

The Holy Relics of Islam, which used to belong to the Prophet Mohammad (S), are kept and exhibited in a special sanctuary by the third court, and in an adjoining hall a collection illustrating the consummate skill of Turkish calligraphers is displayed. (Courtesy of *Istanbul*, 20th ed. 1988.)

Answers to last week's PERFECT SUITORS:

King of Hearts, Jack of spades.

Ace of diamonds, Queen of clubs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1968 - The Iraqi government was overthrown by a revolutionary command council headed by General Hassan al-Bakr.

1969 - In Spain, General Franco named Prince Juan Carlos as his eventual successor as head of state.

1973 - A military coup in Afghanistan led by former Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Daoud Khan overthrew King Mohammed Zahir Shah; a republic was proclaimed with daoud as president.

1975 - Apollo 18 and the Soviet Union's Soyuz 19 linked up 140 miles above the earth. The commanders, Tom Stafford and Alexei Leonov, shook hands through the hatches of their spacecraft and exchanged greetings in each other's languages.

1979 - Anastasia Somoza resigned as Nicaraguan president and fled the country, being replaced by a government led by Sandinista leader Daneil Ortega.

1981 - The Humber Bridge, billed as the longest single-span bridge in the world, was opened in England by the Queen.

CANDID CAMERA

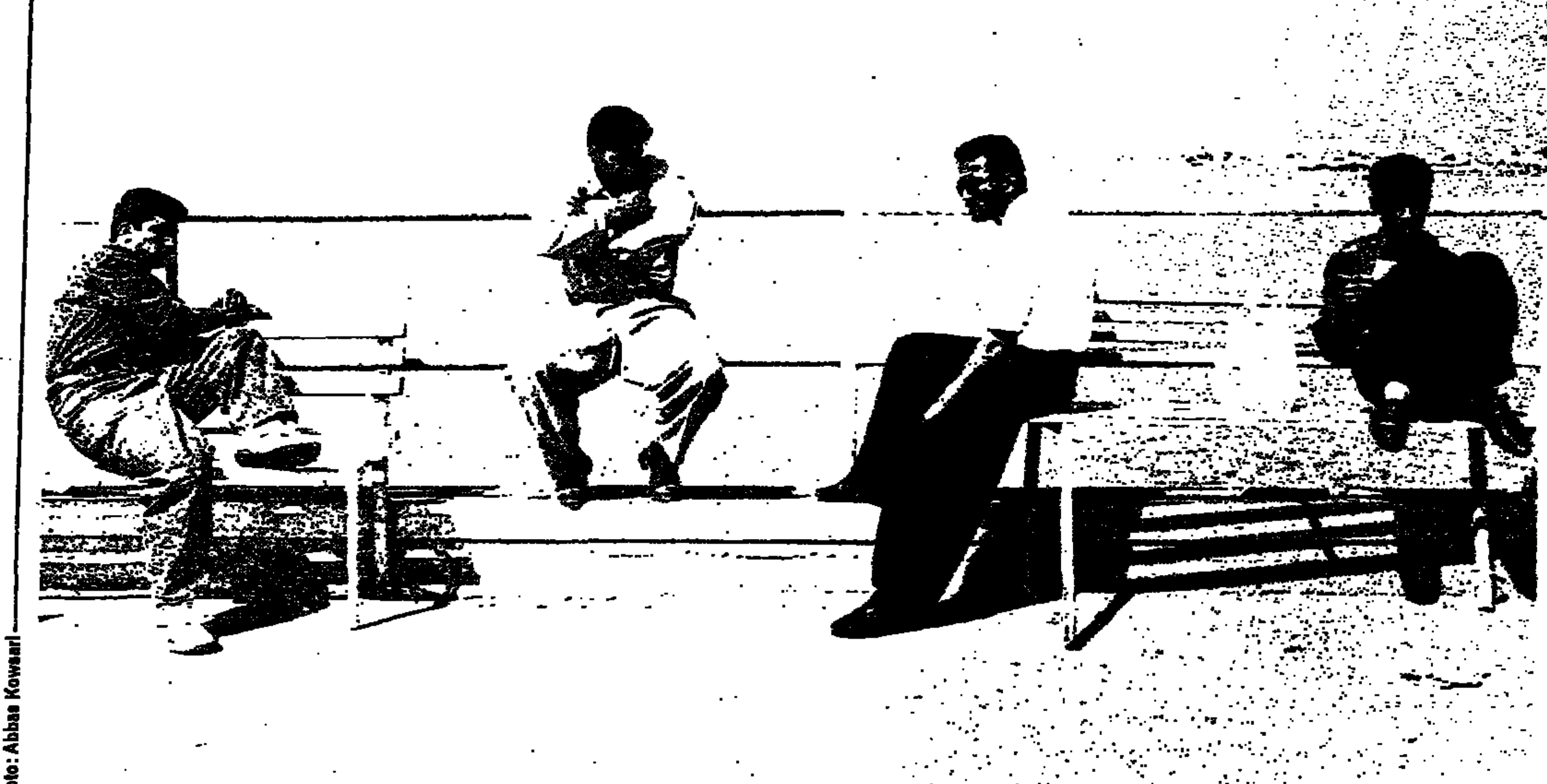


Photo: Abbas Kowsari

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1971 - Six trucial states, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Umm al-Quwain, Ajman & Fujeirah, decided to form the Union of Arab Emirates.

1972 - Egypt demanded the Soviet Union remove its 20,000 advisers from the country, accusing it of failing to supply promised arms.

1976 - The 21st Olympic games opened in Montreal, with Taiwan being refused entry and 19 nations withdrawing in protest against New Zealand's rugby tour of South Africa.

1984 - A gunman massacred 20 people at a McDonalds restaurant in California saying "I don't like Mondays" — even though it was a Wednesday.

1990 - The rebel Soviet Republic of Lithuania passed a new provisional law on local military service, challenging Moscow's right to conscript its young men.

1994 - 96 people were killed when a bomb ripped through a Buenos Aires Jewish Community Center.

A Tale From Gulistan of Sa'di

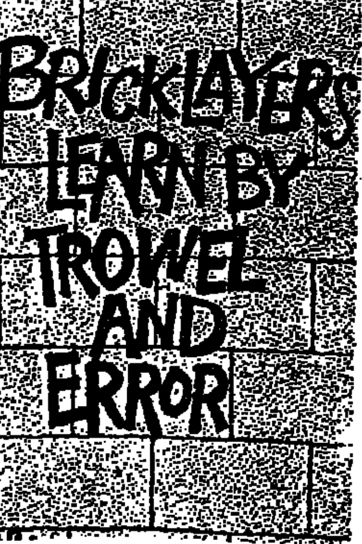
On Love and Youth

Hassan Maymandi was once asked, as Sultan Mahmoud possesses so many beautiful slaves, each a marvel in the world, how come he manifests nothing of his inclination and love to them but all for Ayaz, though he hast not much beauty. He replied: "Whatever descends into the heart appears good to the eye."

He whose Morid (disciple) the Sultan is, whatever bad he does, will be good; but he whom the Padshah (King) throws away shan't be cared for by none in the household.

If anyone looks with an unfavorable eye, he will see ugliness (even) in the figure of Joseph. And if one looks with the eye of desire at a demon, he will appear an angel, cherubs in his sight.

GRAFFITI



Test Your English

Complete each of the following sentences by circling A, B, C, or D.

1 Who made Ann .... for all the tickets?
A. Pay B. to pay C. paying D. into paying

2 She couldn't imagine .... all her life in her present job.
A. for working B. to work C. work D. working

3 There was no one capable .... the puncture.
A. repair B. to repair C. for repairing D. of repairing

4 How did you manage to avoid .... caught?
A. be B. being C. to be D. from being

5 I have always dreamed .... Switzerland.
A. visit B. to visit C. in visiting D. of visiting

6 They were very glad .... their son back safely.
A. have B. in having C. to have D. for having

7 Can I help you .... that heavy case?
A. carrying B. in carrying C. to carry D. carry

8 I very much look forward .... from you.
A. hear B. to hear C. hearing D. to hearing

9 I have invited them .... tea with us.
A. having B. for having C. they have D. to have

10 Who discouraged Tom .... to drive?
A. from learning B. against learning C. to learn D. learn

11 Don't forget .... me tomorrow.
A. telephone B. to telephone C. telephoning D. for telephoning

12 Several people have great difficulty .... him.
A. understand B. to understand C. in understanding D. for understanding

ANSWER KEY

1A 2D 3D 4B 5D 6C 7C or D 8D 9D 10A 11B 12C



FLYING KITES



Kites flying in a high spring sky are always a cheerful sight and these three are made from wrapping paper and narrow satin ribbon. Cut pale blue card 22 by 15cm (8½ by 6in). Score and fold 11cm (4¼in). Cut out kites in three different sizes and papers using a ruler. Arrange and stick on card using spray glue.



Cut narrow satin ribbons slightly longer than card so they will hang below bottom of card. Cut short lengths of ribbon for bows.



Glue and hold in place for a moment since satin ribbon tends to resist glue at first. Some of the bows can be a 'V' of twisted ribbon.





